

James Ward
THE
Gentleman Angler :

CONTAINING

Short, Plain, and Easy INSTRUCTIONS, whereby the most ignorant Beginner may, in a short Time, become a perfect *Artist* in Angling for *Salmon, Salmon Peal, Trout, Pike, Carp, Perch, Barbel, Tench, Bream, Chub, Greyling, Mulletts, Flounders, Roch, Dace, Gudgeon, &c.*

With several OBSERVATIONS on *Angling, Angle Rods, and Artificial Flies*; How to chuse the best *Hair*, and *Indian Grass*; Of the proper Times and Seasons for *River and Pond Fishing*; When *Fish spawn*; And what *Baits* are chiefly to be used, &c.

To which is added, A TREATISE concerning *Thames Fishing*; with an Account of the Nature of such Rivers as empty themselves into it, or are near unto it, &c. Also the ANGLER's *New Song*; *The Laws of Angling*; And the Form of a LICENCE and *Deputation* for Angling.

Together with an APPENDIX, containing the Method of ROCK and SEA FISHING; An Alphabetical *Explanation* of Technical WORDS used in the Art of ANGLING; Choice RECEIPTS for Dressing FISH; And, How to Improve BARREN GROUND, by turning it into FISH PONDS; With plain DIRECTIONS how to Make a TROUT POND, &c.

By a Gentleman, who has made *Angling* his Diversion upwards of Twenty-Eight Years.

The THIRD EDITION, with large ADDITIONS.

— *Si quid novisti rectius istis,*
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum. HOR.

L O N D O N :

Printed for C. HITCH, at the *Red Lion* in *Pater-noster Row*.



231

The P R E F A C E. iii

were sensible of this, when they made the Practices of the one Penal, and laid no Restraint upon the other.

I would not be here thought to inveigh against the Use of Nets, by those who are Lords of Royalties, or pay Rent for Fisheries; my Small Artillery is levelled against such Persons only, who clandestinely invade other Mens Properties, and, by Poaching Methods, destroy more Fish in one Month, than all the Anglers in England do take in seven Years.

Anglers can do no Prejudice to a River; they catch Fish for their Recreation and Pleasure, not for Lucre; whereas Poachers make it their Livelihood by Night and by Day:

This leaf is misplaced see ii

iv The P R E F A C E.

Day : And it may be truly said, in a literal Sense, That all is Fish which comes to their Nets.

For these Reasons, I have omitted all superfluous Niceties, Descriptions, and Opinions of the Antients ; chusing to come immediately to the Point, and treat of such Things only, as will instruct a young Beginner, and improve those who have made some Progress in the Art of Angling : And to facilitate this, I have pursued a Method entirely new ; and have given such plain and easy Rules and Directions, as will, if carefully observed, and put in Practice, quickly enable a young Angler to become an Artist.



These



THE
PREFACE.



*May, without Vanity,
affirm, That the fol-
lowing Treatise upon
ANGLING, is the most
perfect and compleat of any that
has hitherto appeared in Print.
Other Books are generally crouded
with so many superfluous and un-
necessary Accounts of the Value
which Foreigners set upon some
Kind of Fish, and with reciting*

ii The P R E F A C E.

what was the Opinion of the Antients concerning them, that they seem to be calculated to please Men of Speculation, rather than to instruct a young Beginner, or improve him in the Art of ANGLING.

To this may be added, That they abound frequently with a Description of the various Nets by which Fish may be taken ; how to lay Night Lines ; how to Snare Fish ; with other nefarious and clandestine Methods, by which they may be destroyed : But this is downright Poaching, which has nothing to do with Angling.

There is as much Difference between an Angler and a Poacher, as between the Fair Trader and the Smugler ; and the Legislature
were

These Rules and Directions are founded upon Experience, which is the most infallible Mistress, and not taken up upon Hear-say, to which little Credit is to be given : For most Anglers generally take a Pleasure in deluding young Beginners, and leading them astray, by sending them to such Places as are unfrequented by Fish ; and telling them that such Baits are proper, when they know the contrary. This is very ungenerous Treatment, and unworthy of an Angler : For my Part, I am so far from Repining, that it gives me much Satisfaction, when it falls to the Lot of another to hook a large Fish ; and I never refuse my Aid, or my Counsel.

Much

Much might be added in Commendation of this Work ; but I shall only say further, That I have endeavoured to be Concise, and to stick close to the Matter, and rather more to the Practice of the Art, than the Theory ; and do submit myself to the Judgment of expert Anglers, and the Experience of young Learners.



THE



T H E
Gentleman A N G L E R.



E that will be an expert *Angler*, must be endued with the following Qualifications ;
viz.

P A T I E N C E,
D I L I G E N C E,
R E S O L U T I O N :

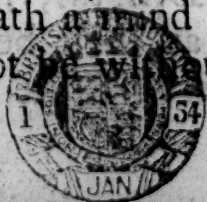
Patient, to endure the Disappointments that attend *Anglers*, who cannot promise to themselves, at all times, the desired Success ; *Diligent*, in following such Instructions as shall be communicated to him, observing the various Sea-
B sons

2 *The Gentleman Angler.*

fons of the Year, and various Dispositions of Fish ; *Resolute*, to rise early, and pursue his Sport, whether it be Hot or Cold, in Winter or in Summer.

It will be needless to launch forth in the Praise and Commendation of *Angling*, or to shew that it is an innocent Diversion, and a healthful Recreation ; Experience will confirm the Truth : And they who are resolved to become *Anglers*, will soon give the same Judgment ; tho' the plainest Demonstration will never be sufficient to convince and refute its Enemies. I shall not, therefore, waste Time in unnecessary *Encomiums*, but proceed to lay down such Rules and Directions, as are grounded upon Experience, and which will suffice to teach and instruct young Beginners to become perfect Artists in Time.

First then, Let the young *Angler* be equipt with Variety of Hooks, and a competent Quantity of every Sort ; let him be always furnished with Tackle, suitable to that Branch of *Angling* with which he hath a mind to divert himself. Let him not be without *Wax*, and Variety



riety of *Silk*, a Pair of *Scissars*, or *Pen-knife*, a *Basket*, or *Bag*, and *Landing-Net*, *Plummets*, *Shot*, and *Floats* of every Kind ; *Needles and Thread*, *Lines*, *Hair*, *Indian Grass*, Variety of Feathers, more particularly those taken from the Neck of a *Mallard*, the Wing of a *Partridge*, a *Capon's Neck*, the Top of a *Plover*, or the Hackle of a *Red Cock*. He must likewise be furnished with *Twist* and *Bedding*, for dubbing his *artificial Flies* ; he must have a *Landing-Hook*, *Reels* for his *Silk Lines*, a *Pouch* or *Book* for his *Hair Lines*, which ought to be rolled up in a circular Form ; a convenient Place to repose his *small Craft*, viz. *Flies*, *Hooks*, *Wax*, *Shot*, *Silk*, &c. a *Bag* for his *Worms*, and a *Tin-Box* for his *Gentles*, &c. Daily Experience will teach him what other Necessaries he will have occasion to use.

As several Gentlemen take a Pleasure in making and mending their own Rods ; and as others delight altogether in a *Rural Life*, and consequently cannot presently apply themselves to a *Fish-Tackle Shop*, when any Damage happens to their Rods ; it may be proper to give

4 *The Gentleman Angler.*

some Hints to such Gentlemen, which, when put in Practice, will enable them to be *Artists*, in making their own Rods. — The But-end of every Rod should not exceed two or three Foot (at most) in Length; and every other Joint ought to rise proportionably taper from the first: *Hazel* is the best for the uppermost, which, as well as the others, must be cut when the Sap descends to the Root, that is, in the Month of *October*. I have seen very good Rods made of the Wood taken from the *Yew* Tree, but they are generally more brittle than the *Hazel*, especially if not well season'd. — If the *Shoots* are a little crooked, let them be warmed in a gentle Flame, and then they may with Ease be made straight; if they have *Knobs* or *Lumps* upon them, a sharp Knife will soon take away those Excrescences; but it is best to chuse those which are naturally straight, taper, and free from *Knots* or *Banks*. Having thus prepared them, place them either over a Chimney, wherein a good Fire is constantly kept, or within a Chimney where there is a moderate Fire; by this Means the
Pith

The Gentleman Angler. 5

Pith will be consumed, and the Joint become tough and serviceable. Observe to place the Top-joints so nicely, that they do not bend or warp in drying ; and when you use them, apply to the Top thereof a Piece of *Whalebone*, made curiously round and taper. Let every Joint be nicely spliced with a fine waxed Thread, according to Art ; and your Rod ought to be stronger, or weaker, in Proportion to the Strength of the Fish for which you design to *angle*, or the Place in which you *angle*. It will be very convenient to have *Rings*, or *Eyes*, (as some call them) made of fine *Wire*, and placed so artificially upon your Rod, from the one End to the other, that when you lay your Eye to one, you may see through all the rest ; and your Rod being thus furnish'd, you will easily learn from thence how to put *Rings* to all your other *Rods*. Through these *Rings* your Line must run, which will be kept in a due Posture, and you will find great Benefit thereby. You must also have a *Winch* or *Wheel*, affixed to your Rod, about a Foot above the end, that you may give Liberty to the Fish, which, if large, will

6 *The Gentleman Angler.*

be apt to run a great way before it may be proper to check him, or before he will voluntarily return.

DIRECTIONS *for chusing good Hair,* *Indian Grass, and Hooks.*

IN chusing good *Hair*, observe it well, and be sure that it be long, round, and even, without any Flaw, Bank, or Blemish. The same Directions are to be follow'd in the Choice of the *Indian Grass*. A young, vigorous, healthy Stone-horse, who is in his Prime, affords the strongest Hair; and the most proper Time for plucking his Tail, (from whence alone Hair for making Lines is to be taken) is when he goes to cover a Mare. An old or sick Horse has but indifferent Hair; and what is taken from a dead Horse, except he has died suddenly, and without any lingering Distemper, and his Tail has been immediately cut off, is of very little Value, and suffers a Diminution of Strength. In chusing your *Hooks*, take care that they are sharp at the Point, and the Beards not broken, but sharp, sound, and of a proper Length;
and

and observe that the Wire be not apt to give way, so that you may straighten them with your Fingers ; for if so, they will spoil your Sport, not being able to hold any Fish : Chuse a Hook whose Shank is short, otherwise it will be apt to break off, upon the least Touch.

How to make Hair Lines.

Y o u must provide yourself with an Instrument for Twisting ; then take your Hair, and cut off an Handful at the End, because the Bottom-part is generally weak, if not rotten, occasion'd by the Dirt that lies constantly upon it. Turn the Top of one Hair to the Tail of the other, which will cause every Part to be equally strong ; knot them at one End, and divide them into three Parts : Twist every Part by itself, and knot them together : Then put that End into the Cleft of your Instrument, four Inches shorter than your Hair ; twine your Warp one way alike, and fasten them in three Clifts alike straight ; then take out the other End, and let it twine which way it will ; then strain it

a little, and knot it before you take it out.

When you have prepar'd as many Links as will suffice to make your Line long enough, you must then tie them together with a *Water Knot*, or a *Dutch Knot*, or a *Weaver's Knot*; then cut off the short Ends about the Breadth of a Straw from the Knot; and thus your Lines will be comely and even, and fit for any manner of Fish.

Now forasmuch as the various Seasons of the Year, and the various Colours of the Waters, will require various coloured Lines; the young *Angler* may learn to colour his Hair (for making Lines) after this Manner.

How to make Hair Green.

HAVING procured a Quantity of *White* Hair, divide it into six Parts; then take one Quart of Ale, and put into it a Pound of *Allom*; then put one Part of your Hair, and all together, into a Pan, and let them boil softly for half an Hour; then take out your Hair, and let it dry. When you have done this, take two
Quarts

The Gentleman Angler. 9

Quarts of fair Water, and put it into another Pan, and two Handfuls of *Wax*, and lay a Tile, or a Stone, to press it down, and let it boil softly for the Space of an Hour; and when the Scum is yellow, put in your Hair, with half a Pound of *Copperas* beaten into Powder, and let it boil for half an Hour; then take it off from the Fire, and let it stand for five or six Hours, then take out the Hair and dry it. By this means you will have a fine *Green* for the Water; and the more *Copperas* you put to it, the better it will be.

How to make Hair Yellow.

THE second Quantity of your Hair is to be manag'd as directed before, with *Allom*, or with *Wax*, without *Copperas* or *Verdigrease*.

To make another Yellow.

TAKE two Quarts of small Ale, and stamp therein three Handfuls of *Walnut Leaves*; then put in your Hair, and let it

10 *The Gentleman Angler.*

remain until it be of as deep a Colour as you would have it.

To make Hair a Ruffet Colour.

TAKE a Pint of strong *Lee*, and half a Pound of *Soot*, and a little Juice of *Walnut Leaves*, and a Quart of *Allom* ; put them all together in a Pan, and boil them well, and, when it is cold, put in your third Quantity of Hair, and let it steep until it is as dark as you would have it to be.

To make Hair Brown.

TAKE strong *Ale* and *Salt*, mix 'em together, and let your fourth Quantity of Hair soak therein two Days and two Nights, and it will be a perfect *Brown* Colour.

To make Hair Tawny.

TAKE *Lime* and *Water*, and mix them together, and steep your fifth Quantity of Hair therein, for the Space of four or five Hours; then take it out, and let it

The Gentleman Angler. 11

it soak one Day in a *Tan-pit*, and it will be as fine a *Tawny* Colour as you can desire for your Purpose. — The sixth Part of your Hair remains *White*.

Now to know the Seasons, and different Waters, for which those different Colours are proper, observe, that the *Yellow* is to be used in all clear Waters, from *September* to *November* : The *Russet* serves all the Winter, and until the End of *April*, as well in Rivers as in Pools and Lakes : The *Brown* is to be used in blackish Waters ; the *Tawny*, in those Rivers, or Waters, that are heathy or moorish.

As some Persons are curious, and may be desirous to make their own *Hooks*, they may gratify their Curiosity after this Manner :

To make H O O K S.

Y O U must be provided with the following Instruments, viz. a *Hammer*, a *Knife*, a Pair of *Pincers*, a *Semy-Clean* of Iron, a *File*, a *Wrest*, a *Bender*, a Pair of long and short *Tongs*, and an *Anvil*, and *Steel Needles* of different Sizes. Put

12 *The Gentleman Angler.*

a *Needle* into a Fire of Charcoal until it be red hot, then take it out and let it cool, and raise the Beard with your *Knife*; make the Point sharp with a *File*, or by grinding it upon a Stone, and put it into the Fire again, and then bend it into what Shape you think fit. Make the upper Part of the Shank four-square, and file the Edges smooth, lest it fret the Line; then put it into the Fire again, and give it an easy, gentle, red Heat; then quench it suddenly in Water, and it will be hard and strong.

When you have made your Hooks, (though they are scarce worth the Pains or Trouble that are taken about them, since the *best* may be purchased at a cheap Price) you must learn to fasten them to your Line, according to their Strength and Size.

How to whip a H o o k.

TAKE small Silk of any Colour; and if it be for large Hooks, then double and twist it, and let it be well waxed, and for a small Hook let it be single; wind it about that Part of your Line where you
would

would have the Hook stand, about a Straw breadth, then put your Hook to it, and twist the Silk round it two Parts of the Length that it shall be twisted in all; and when you come to the third Part, then put your Silk in at the Hole three or four times over the Beard of your Hook: having done this, wet your Hook, and draw your Silk tight and close, and take care that your Line always lies on the Inside of the Hook, then cut off the Silk, and the End of the Line, as nigh as you can to the Twist.

Your Lines must be proportioned in Strength and Fineness to the different Sort of Fish for which you angle: As for Example; If for the small *Roach*, the *Bleake*, or the *Gudgeon*, or the *Ruff*, or *Pope*, angle with a Line of one Hair; for *Dace*, or *Roach*, with three Hairs; for *Perch*, *Flounder*, or small *Bream*, with four Hairs; for *Chub* or *Chevin*, *Carp*, *Tench*, and *Eel*, with six Hairs; for *Barbel*, large *Chub*, large *Trout*, and great *Bream*, with nine Hairs; for *Salmon*, with twelve or fifteen Hairs. But forasmuch as *Trout* are a shy and wary Fish, and as large *Bream* have small Mouths,
and

14 *The Gentleman Angler.*

and require a small Hook, it is best to use the *Indian Grass* for them, as the last Link of your Line, which will be both fine and strong.

How to make F L O A T S.

T A K E a Piece of *Cork* that is sound and firm, shape it so as that it may be like an Egg, save only that the one End must be somewhat sharper than the small End of an Egg; then bore it through with a small red-hot Iron, and make it smooth upon a Grind-stone. A Float for one Hair must be no bigger than a *Pea*; for three Hairs, as big as a *Bean*; for six Hairs, as a small *Wall-nut*; for twelve, as large as a *French Walnut*.

Quill-Floats with a red Head are best for still Waters, or for Rivers, whose Currents are not very strong; but *Cork* is to be used in strong Currents, or when the Surface of the Water is rough, because it is most visible.

As Quill-Floats are very liable to Accidents; and as it will often be found necessary to join two Floats together, so that they may be able to bear the greater
Weight

The Gentleman Angler. 15

Weight of Lead ; and forasmuch as a Person in the Country cannot have immediate Recourse to those who make and mend Fish-Tackle : I shall therefore give the young *Angler* such Instructions, as will enable him to perform what he wants to have done, as neat, strong and firm, as if he had apply'd himself to the greatest Artist in *London*.

If the Float be bruised and split, there is no Remedy for it ; and therefore, in such a Case, save the Plug or small Piece of Wood which has the little Brass-wire at the End of it ; and this may serve for another.

If the Water gets in at the Top of your Float, you must amend that Defect by covering it with Sealing-wax : If the Plug of your Float be loose, pull it out ; and if it should chance at any time to come out of itself, it must be put in and fastened with one of the following *Cements*.

A Cement for FLOATS.

TAKE *Bees-wax* bruised small, *Chalk* scraped fine, and *black Rosin* beaten to Powder, of each an equal Quantity :
Melt

16 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Melt all these together in a Silver Spoon, or in a small Tin Vessel made for the Purpose, and take Care that they be well mix'd, as they melt.

Another.

TAKE *Brick-dust* sifted very fine, and common *Rosin* beaten to Powder : To one Part of *Brick-dust* put two Parts of *Rosin*, and melt them, as before directed.

Now to fix your Plug in your Float, dip it in either of the Cements, when they are melted, and be sure to put your Float immediately upon it, for the *Cement* cools in an Instant.

If you would join two Floats or Quills together, let the Plug be of the same Shape with that Part of the Plug which goes into the Mouth of a single Float, but let it be a little thicker in the Middle than at the Ends ; and take Care that each End be somewhat less than the Mouth of the Quill into which it is to be put, otherwise it may be apt to split it. Having thus prepared your Plug, dip it into your melted *Rosin*, and place your Quill upon it : Do the like by the other
End

The Gentleman Angler. 17

End of the Plug, and by the other Quill.

But if you have a mind to fasten two Quills together, without making use of any Plug; then scrape them, cut them, and make them ready as though it were for a Plug, and having warmed them, dip the Ends in your melted Cement, and fix them together with it. When the Cement is cold, which it will be immediately, you will find it so strong and hard, that it will prove a difficult Matter to pull the two Quills asunder with both Hands, without breaking them to Pieces.

I shall say no more concerning *Floats*, but shall conclude this Head, by teaching the young *Angler* how to dye his Quills of a beautiful Red, and which he may have occasion to use, according to the Nature of the Water in which he *angles*.

To die QUILLS Red.

TAKE what Quantity you please of stale *Urine*, and put therein as much Powder of *Brasil-wood* as will make it red:

18 *The Gentleman Angler.*

red : And that you may know whether it be as red as you would have it, dip a Feather into it, and drop a little upon a Piece of white Paper. Then take some fair Water, put a handful of Salt into it, a small Quantity of *Argol*, (which may be bought at an Ironmongers) and stir them about 'till they are dissolved in the Water ; then set them over the Fire in a Copper-pot or Sauce-pan, and let them boil thoroughly. When the Water is cold, scrape your Quills very well, and let them lie awhile in it ; then take them out, and lay them in the Urine, made red with the *Brazil-wood*, for the Space of ten or twelve Days ; then take them out, and hang them up until they are dry ; then rub them with a Linen-cloth, and they will be a transparent Colour.

Of Artificial F L I E S.

IT is the Opinion of most *Anglers*, that it will be lost Labour to give Directions how to make or *dub* (as some term it) an *Artificial Fly*, since it is scarce in the Power of Words *alone* sufficiently
to

to instruct any Man ; the Method depending upon Practice, which must render him expert in that *Art* ; and therefore he ought to be instructed by a nice and curious Hand. Nevertheless, for the Benefit and Recreation of those who cannot have recourse to such *Artists*, I will give Directions for making the *Artificial Fly*, which may serve until he can be better instructed.

How to make an Artificial FLY.

First, *Arm your Hook, with the Line in the Inside of it, then take your Scissars or Penknife (the former is best and most useful) and cut so much of a brown Mallard's Feather as you think sufficient to make the Wings of it, having always due Regard to the Largeness or Smallness of your Hook ; lay the outmost Part of the Feather next to the Hook, and the Point of the Feather next to the Shank of the Hook ; then whip it three or four times round with the same Silk with which your Hook was armed, and having fastened the Silk, take the Hackel of a Cock, or Capon's Neck, or a Plover's Topping,*

20 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Topping, which is best ; strip one Side of the Feather, then take the Hackel, Silk, Crewel, Gold or Silver Thread, and fasten these at the Bent of your Hook below the Arming ; then take the Hackel, the Silver or Gold Thread, and work it up to the Wings, removing your Fingers as you turn the Silk about the Hook, and strictly observing, at every Turn, that what Materials soever you work with, be tight and neat. When you have made the Head, fasten all, and then work your Hackel up to the Head, and make that fast ; then with a Needle divide the Wing apart, and whip the Silk about cross-ways betwixt the Wings ; then with your Thumb turn the Point of the Feather towards the Bent of your Hook, and work three or four times about the Shank of it ; then fasten.

There are twelve Sorts of *Artificial Flies*, which are generally used ; viz.

1. The First is the *Dun Fly* for March ; the Body is made of *Dun-colour Wooll*, and the Wing's of a *Partridge's Feather*.

2. There

The Gentleman Angler. 21

2. There is another *Dun Fly*; the Body is made of *Black Wooll*, and the Wing's of a *Drake's* Feathers.

3. The Third is the *Stone Fly*, in *April*; the Body is of *Black Wooll*, made yellow under the Wings and Tail, and so made with Wings of a *Drake*.

4. The Fourth is the *Ruddy Fly*, in the Beginning of *May*; the Body is made of *Red Wooll*, wrapt about with *Black Silk*, and the Wings are the Feathers of a *Drake*, with the Feathers of a *Red Capon* also, which hang dangling on his Sides next the Tail.

5. The Fifth is the *Yellow* or *Greenish Fly*, used in *May* likewise; the Body is made of *Yellow Wooll*, and the Wings of the red Cock's Tail.

6. The Sixth is the *Black Fly*, in *May* also; the Body is made of *Black Wool*, and wrapt about with the Herle of a *Peacock's* Tail; the Wings are made of the Wings of a *Brown Capon*, with his blue Feathers in his Head.

7. The Seventh is the *Sad Yellow Fly*, used in *June*; the Body is made of *Black Wooll*, with a yellow Lift on either Side, and the Wings taken off, or the Wings
of

22 *The Gentleman Angler.*

of a *Buzzard* bound with black braked Hemp.

8. The Eighth is the *Moorish Fly*; the Body is made of *dusky Wool*, and the Wings of the blackish Mail of the *Drake*.

9. The Ninth is the *Tawny Fly*, good until the Middle of *June*; the Body is made of *tawny Wool*, the Wings made contrary one against the other, of the whitish Mail of the *Mallard*.

10. The Tenth is the *Wasp-Fly* in *July*; the Body is made of *black Wool*, wrapt about with *yellow Silk*, and the Wings made of *Drake's* or *Buzzard's* Feather's.

11. The Eleventh is the *Shell-Fly*, good in *Mid-July*; the Body is made of *greenish Wool*, wrapt about with the Herle of a *Peacock's* Tail, and the Wings made of those of a *Buzzard*.

12. The Twelfth is the *dark Drake-Fly*, good in *August*; the Body is made of *black Wool*, wrapt about with *black Silk*; his Wings are made with the Mail of a black *Drake*, with a black Head.

He

The Gentleman Angler. 23

He that *angles* upon the Surface of the Water with an *Artificial Fly*, should have plenty of them, and must expect to tire his Arm, before he can learn the true *Art* of casting his Line dexterously : For if three or four Inches fall upon the Water, it will be Ten to One but the Fish will be frightened away, instead of rising at the *Fly*. The best Sort of *Artificial Flies* are made by the ingenious Mr. *Jemmit*, and therefore called *Jemmit's Flies*. That Gentleman is a *nice* and *compleat* Artist, and an *accomplished Angler* : Nevertheless, I would not be here thought to depreciate or vilify the Performances of other Persons, by the Use of whose *Flies* you may meet with good Sport ; and I hope it will not be deemed an Affront, if I give to that Gentleman the Pre-eminence, and say, That though others do make *very good Artificial Flies*, yet he makes the *Best*.

General Instructions for ANGLING.

THERE is no great Difference in *Angling* in any Place or Part of a Pool,
or

24 *The Gentleman Angler.*

or standing Water ; for it is a Prison to all Fish, and they are therefore the sooner taken : but in Rivers, the best Angling is where it is deep and clear at the Bottom ; especially if it be a Gravel or Clay without Mud or Weeds, and if there is a Whirling or Turning in the Water, or a Covert, as a hollow Bank, great Roots of Trees, or long Weeds floating above the Water, where the Fish may hide themselves at certain Times. It is also good to *angle* in still Streams, and in Vallies of Waters, in Flood-gates and Mill-streams, and at the Bank where the Current passes, and is deep and clear.

The best Time of the Year, and the best Time of the Day, are from the Beginning of *May*, until the latter End of *September* ; and from Four of the Clock in the Morning, until Eight or Nine at Night, if the Day's Length will permit : A lowring Day is much better than a clear Day, and a cold one preferable to a hot one.

If you perceive the *Trout* or the *Grayling* leap any Time of the Day, angle for him with an artificial Fly, according
to

The Gentleman Angler. 25

to the Season of the Year, and where the Water ebbs and flows, the Fish will bite in some particular Places of the Ebb, and in particular Places of the Flood, after they have rested behind Arches of Bridges, and such other Places.

The best and principal Time for *Angling* is a lowring Day, when the Wind blows gently ; in Summer, when it is very hot, there will not be good Angling. From *September* until *April* it is best to angle in a fair Sun-shine Day ; and if the Wind be in the *East-Quarter* it is stark naught ; in the *North*, something better ; in the *West*, much better ; the *South*, best of all : according to this old Distich ;

*The North bad, East worse, West good ;
but the South*

Blows every Bait into the Fish's Mouth.

Forbear from Angling if the Weather be tempestuous, as Thunder or Lightning, or when the Wind blows hard, or when it snows, hails, or rains much. And here I shall caution the *Angler*, and shew him Twelve Impediments, which often prevent his Sport ; viz.

26 *The Gentleman Angler.*

1. The Fault may be occasioned by his Tackle, as when his Lines or Hooks are too large.

2. When his Bait is dead, or decaying.

3. If he angles at a wrong Time of the Day, when the Fish are not in the Humour of taking his Bait.

4. If the Fish have been scared or frightened by the Sight of him, or with his Shadow.

5. If the Waters are thick, red, or white, being disturbed with sudden Floods.

6. If the Weather be too cold.

7. If the Weather be too hot.

8. If it rains much, and fast.

9. If it hails or snows.

10. If it be tempestuous.

11. If the Wind blows high.

12. If the Wind be in the *East*, no Fish will bite, except by chance, and that he is very hungry.

*How to keep and preserve Live Baits,
and other Baits.*

THEY must be all kept severally by themselves: Worms of all Kind, are to be

The Gentleman Angler. 27

be kept in *Moss*, or in *Moss* and *Fennel*; and the longer they are kept, provided they be not sick, the better and tougher they will be. In the Summer-season the *Moss* ought to be washed and squeezed dry at least twice in every Week: if oftener, the better it will be for the *Worms*; and a large Earthen-pan, or Tub, with good Store of *Moss* in it, is a good Receptacle for them. If your *Worms*, especially the *Brandling*, begin to be sick, or decay, which you will perceive by a *Knot* in the Middle of them, (and, if not taken care of; will soon die) they may be recovered, by dropping the Quantity of a Spoonful of Milk or Cream into the *Moss*; and if you add an Egg beaten and boiled in the Cream, it will both fatten and preserve them long. They must be kept in a cool Place, where the Sun cannot come near them. If you design your *Worms* for immediate Use, then keep them in *Fennel*; if not, let them lie in *Moss*: The best Sort of *Moss* for this Purpose is the *Bucks-horn*, except the *white Moss*, which is difficult to be found. *Brandlings* are usually found in an old Dung-hill, or some rotten

28 *The Gentleman Angler.*

ten Place near it, but most commonly in *Cow's* or *Hog's*, rather than *Horse-dung*, which is too hot and dry for that Kind of Worm. But the best Sort of them are to be found in the Tanner's Bark, which they cast up in Heaps, after they have used it about their Leather. *Lob-worms* are to be gathered in the Night-time, when they come out to feed either in Grass-fields, or Paths, or in Garden-walks: You must have a Lantern and Candle, move slow and softly, and when you perceive them, lay your Finger immediately upon them, and draw them out of their Holes gently, otherwise you will break them. They are quick of Apprehension, and soon retire into their Holes, but will come out again in a quarter of an Hour, or less. If they once get quite out of their Holes, they cannot get in again.

In a dry Season, when you are put to an Extremity for Worms, then take some *Wall-nut-tree* Leaves, pound them, and mix them with Salt Water, strain the Water from the Leaves, and pour it upon the Ground in the Night where the Worms used to rise, and it will make them presently appear.

To cleanse and preserve Worms.

WHAT I shall here relate belongs to all Sorts of Worms, except the Lob-worm ; as the *Brandlin*, the *Yellow* or *Ring-tail*, the *Marsh-worm*, the *Red-worm*, &c. Take a Piece of very coarse Cloth, which is not struck close in the weaving, as other Cloth is ; wash it very clean, so that no part of the Soap remains in it, and let it dry. Then take some Liquor wherein a Piece of fresh fat Beef has been boiled, and soak the Cloth in it ; then wring it out, but not too hard, and let some of the Beef-liquor remain in it ; then lay it in a deep Earthen-pan which has a large Bottom, lay your Worms upon the Cloth, and they will run in and out through it, and scour themselves : Let them remain there for the Space of twenty-four Hours, then wash your Cloth, as before, but do not dry it : wet it again in some of the same Liquor, and place your Worms upon it, and keep them in a close Cellar. Repeat this every other Day during the Heat of Summer, and you will not only preserve

30 *The Gentleman Angler.*

your Worms alive for three Weeks, or a Month, but you will also find them to be red and tough. When you take any for Angling, put them into Moss that has been well washed, and not wrung dry; and when you come home at Night, take out your Worms, and put them into your Pan, by which they will recover themselves, and gather fresh Strength. Be sure that there is not any Salt in your Beef-Liquor; for if there be, it will kill your Worms, by purging them to Death.

The following, which is call'd the *Universal and Infallible Bait*, was communicated to me by a very old and experienced *Angler*, who had kept it secret for many Years. I must confess I have not had an Opportunity of making a Trial of it; but however, I will communicate it to the Publick, and they that please may use it, or refuse it.

The Universal and Infallible Bait.

TAKE Oil of Comfry by Infusion three Drams, half an Ounce of Goose Grease, one Spoonful of the Juice of Camomile, two Drams of Oil of Spike, and half an Ounce

The Gentleman Angler. 31

Ounce of *Spirit of Vitriol*: Dissolve these together over the Fire; and when they are thoroughly melted and incorporated, let it stand for three or four Days; then put it into a Gally Pot, and stop it with 'a Cover of Parchment or Leather. It will keep good for seven Years.

NOTE, The Oils and the Spirits are to be had at any Chymist's Shop.

To keep and preserve Cod Bait alive.

CUT a Branch from a *Withy-tree* about the Thickness of your Wrist, strip down the green Bark or Skin to within an Inch of the Bottom; then cut off the Wood, and draw up the Bark or Skin; fix a Piece of the same Wood, or a Cork, to the Mouth of it, by way of a Stopper, and put in your *Cod Bait*, just as you gather them, with their Husks or Coverings upon them: At Night, when you give over your Sport, lay the Bark or Skin of the *Withy* (having first stopt it close) upon a Grass Plot, or on the Grass in a Field; but let there not be

32 *The Gentleman Angler.*

any Water under it ; for the Bark being porous, will imbibe and suck in a sufficient Quantity of Dew and Air to keep the *Cod Baits* alive : Do this every Night as long as you use the *Baits* ; but if it rains, lay the *Withy Bark* in a Cellar.

How to make Paste for Angling.

W A S H your Hands very clean, then take as much of the finest Flour as you think fit, or rather the Pith or crummy Part of the finest white Bread ; drop a little Milk or Water upon it, and knead it thoroughly in the Palm of your Hand until it is very near being dry ; then temper it with a small Quantity of the finest Honey, make it into a round Ball, and keep it in a moist Linen Cloth, otherwise it will grow dry and hard. — If you would have your *Paste* yellow, mix in it some *Turmerick* ; but if you would have it to be of a Flesh-colour, put a little of the best *Vermilion* in it, and knead it well, so that it be not of a deeper Colour in one Place more than in another.

An excellent Paste for a CHUB.

TAKE some of the oldest and strongest *Cheshire Cheese* which you can get, the Crumb of a fine *Manchet*, or *French Bread*, and some *Sheep's Kidney Suet*; put these into a Mortar, and beat them into a *Paste*, adding as much clarified *Honey* as will be sufficient to soften it.

Another.

TAKE a few *Shrimps* or *Prawns*, pull off their Shells and Skins, and take the clear Meat, and beat in a Mortar with a little *Honey*, until it comes to be a *Paste*: Bait the Hook with a Piece of this, but let the Point be lightly covered.

Ant Flies are thus preserved: Take the blackest *Ant Fly* out of the Ant-hill, where you will find them from *June* until *September*; gather them with both their Wings, and put them into a Glass that will hold the Quantity of a Quart of any Liquor; but first put in a Handful or better of the moist Earth and

34 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Roots of Grass ; then put the *Flies* gently in, that they lose not their Wings ; lay a Clod of Earth over it, and they will keep a Month alive, and be always ready for Use : But if you would keep them longer, get a small Barrel of about three or four Gallons, wash it with Water and Honey ; then having put in a Quantity of Earth and Grass Roots, put in your *Flies*, and cover it, and they will live a Quarter of a Year.

Grubs, which are bred of the Spawn or Eggs of *Beetles*, which they leave in Holes that they make under *Cow* or *Horse Dung*, are thus preserved : Gather a thousand or more of them, and put them, with a Peck or two of their own Earth, into a Vessel, covering it close down to keep them from the Cold and Frosts, and you may keep them all Winter, and kill Fish with them at any Time.

Gentles are a good Bait, and much the better for being lively and tough : When they are taken from *Tallow*, they ought to be kept in moist Sand for two or three Days ; and afterwards, if for constant Use, in *Bran*, or in fine dry Sand :

The Gentleman Angler. 35

Sand: And bait your Hook with them after this Manner;

How to bait the Hook with a Gentle.

TAKE one or two *Gentles*, and put in your Hook into the second Joint above the Tail, then draw it forward upon the Hook: Having done this with one or two, then put your Hook into the second Joint of the last *Gentle*, and cover the Beard of your Hook with it; but do not let the Point appear in Sight: If you run it too deep, the Substance of the *Gentle* will come out, and then it is good for nothing; therefore take Care to run it under the Skin as gently and as close to it as possible.

Gentles may be bred this way: Take a Piece of a Beast's Liver, and with a Cross-stick hang it over a Barrel, or other Vessel, that is half full of dry Clay, and let it be Fly-blown; and as the *Gentles* grow big, they will fall into the Barrel, and scour themselves, and be always ready for Use: *Gentles* may be so bred 'till after *Michaelmas*.

36 *The Gentleman Angler.*

But if you would keep them all the Year, get some dead *Carrion*, or a *Bullock's Liver* ; let it be Fly-blown ; and when the *Gentles* begin to be alive and stir, then bury it and them in moist Earth, or in a Tub of Earth, and keep it as free from Frost as you can. You may dig out the *Gentles* at any time when you intend to use them : They will last until *March* or *April*, but after that time will turn to Flies. When they turn black or red, separate them from the rest, and throw them away, for they are of no Use.

There are some *Baits*, which are the Brood of *Hornets*, *Wasps*, and *Humble Bees* ; these are to be baked in Bread, then their Heads to be dipt in Blood, and laid to dry.

The Artificial *Minnow* is a good Bait for *Trout* or *Perch*, and is thus made :

How to make an Artificial MINNOW.

THE Body must be of Cloth, wrought upon the Back with dark-coloured green Silk, and a paler Green towards the Belly, shaded as naturally as possible, and wrought

The Gentleman Angler. 37

wrought upon the Belly with white Silk in one Part, and silver Thread in another ; the Tail and Fins must be made of a Quill thinly shaven, and the Eyes of two little black Beads. The Ladies are the properest Operators for this Piece of Needle-work, who ought to have a Live Minnow lying by them for a Pattern. Another Sort of Artificial Minnow is made of Tin, and painted very naturally ; which will be of great Service, when live Minnows cannot be had, and may be bought at the Fish-Tackle Shops, but they are dear.

How to bait your Hook with a Live MINNOW.

CHUSE one which is whitest, and of a middle Size ; and that it may turn nimbly in the Water, and thereby attract the Fish, you must thus place it on a large Hook :

Put it into his Mouth, and out at his Gill ; then having drawn it three or four Inches beyond or through his Gill, put it again into his Mouth, and the Points and Beard out at his Tail ; then tie the
Hook

38 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Hook and his Tail about very neatly with a white Thread, which will make it the apter to turn quick in the Water : This done, pull back that Part of your Line which was slack, when you hook the Minnow the second time, that it shall fasten the Head; then the Body of the Minnow will be almost streight on your Hook; afterwards try how it will turn, by drawing it cross the Water, or against the Stream; and if it do not turn nimbly, move the Tail a little to the Right or Left, and try again until it does, for it cannot turn too quick. — The same Method is to be used in Baiting your Hook with a Loach or Strickle-back.

How to Bait with a Lob-worm.

*IF the Lob-worm be large, hook him somewhat above, and out again a little below the Middle; then draw the Worm above the Arming of your Hook, (you must not enter the Hook at the Head, but at the Tail of the Worm, that the Point may come out towards the Head) and put the Point again into the Head of the Worm, until it comes near the Place where it first
came*

came out ; then draw back that Part of the Worm which was above the Shank of your Hook, and so angle with it. But if you design to angle with two Worms, then put the second Worm on before you turn back the Hook's Head of the first. You cannot lose above two or three Worms before you attain to this Method of *Angling*, which you will find very useful, because you will run on the Ground without tangling.

All that I shall say farther in general, is, To advise every Man who uses the *Angle Rod*, not to approach too near the River Side, or speak too loud ; for whether Fish are deaf, (as some People pretend to affirm, though there is good Reason to believe the contrary) yet they are quicksighted, and soon scared. Let him also take Care that he does not place himself so as that his own, or the Shadow of his Rod, may light upon the Water ; if either of them does, he may bid *adieu* to all Sport. He must also become acquainted with the Nature of the River in which he designs to *angle*, before he can promise himself good Success ; and let the Wind sit in
what

40 *The Gentleman Angler.*

what Corner it will, it is best to *angle* on the *Lee Shore*.

The following Advice is so seasonable, that it ought to be punctually observed by every *Angler*, and he will thereby reap the Benefit and Advantage of it.

When, through Necessity or Choice, you are led to use a silken Line, remember, that you do not put it upon your *Reel* while it is wet, but hang it up to dry before you leave the River, or as soon as you come Home, otherwise it will be rotten in a little Time. The same Method ought to be observed with your *Trouling Line*, whether it be made of Hemp or Silk ; the latter is preferable, because it will not be apt to *kink* half so often as the former. Neither must you forget to oil your *Rods* with the best Sallad Oil ; this ought to be done thrice every Week, when they have been exposed much in the Sun, and not to be omitted when you lay them up for any Time ; for this will preserve them from flitting, and from being Worm-eaten. Fail not to examine your Hooks and Lines every time you go to *angle*, and take Care that
the

The Gentleman Angler. 41

the one be made fast, and the other free from *Knots* and *Flaws*.

I shall now proceed to give some particular Directions to the young *Angler*, and make some Observations on the Nature of the several Kinds of Fish which are worth taking : And, *First*, Of the

S A L M O N.

T H I S is a Fish of much Strength and Delicacy, universally loved and coveted, and claims Preference before all other Fish ; has the Pre-eminence, and is therefore called the *King* or *Prince* of all River Fish. *Salmon* spawn generally in *March*, sometimes in *February*, according to the Nature of the River, and chuse the Fresh-water Rivers for that Purpose. You may frequently observe the *Female*, or the *Salmon* which has the *Pea* or *Spawn*, to work with her Belly upon the Gravel, until she has cast up a little Hillock on each Side of her, as well behind as before, insomuch that you would imagine she designed to bury herself. In this Hole she lays her *Pea* or
Spawn,

42 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Spawn, and from thence is called the *Spawner* ; and then immediately comes the *Male Salmon*, who is always near, and casts his *Melt* upon the *Pea*, and from thence is called the *Melter* ; and then they work immediately as hard as possible to cover them with the *Gravel*, or *Sand*, which they had cast up.

From this Conjunction proceed the young *Salmon Fry*, which do not continue in a River longer than the Month of *May*, (except prevented by some Accident) according to this old Distich ;

*The first great Flood, that happens in May,
Carries the Salmon Fry down to the Sea.*

When the *Male* has cast his *Melt*, you may observe the Water to be of a thin milky Colour, for the Length of 15 or 20 Yards ; and if at that time you *angle* therein, you will meet with Plenty of *Trout*.

As all Fish are sick, immediately after *spawning*, and consequently unwholsome, they ought not to be taken until they have recruited their Strength, some requiring a longer Time than others.

Salmon

The Gentleman Angler. 43

Salmon is in Season from *March*, if the Weather proves warm, until *Michaelmas*, and is five Years before it comes to its full Growth; *viz.*

1. The first Year, it is called a *Salmon Trout*.

2. The second, a *Bolger*.

3. The third, a *Half Salmon*.

4. The fourth, a *Three-quarters Salmon*.

5. The fifth, a *Full-grown Salmon*.

There are two Ways of Angling for *Salmon*, either with the *Artificial Fly*, or with *Bait*. The *Fly* ought to be made more gaudy, with large expanded Wings, and to have some Gold or Silver Twist round its Body, the Shining of which will allure the *Salmon* to rise at the Fly. The Morning and Evening are the properest Times for Angling for him. Having therefore furnish'd yourself with Necessaries; as, a long, strong, and taper Rod and Line, a Landing Net, Landing Hook, and a Basket or Bag to put your Fish in, repair to the River very early, and take care to have the Wind at your Back. Having fixed your Fly to your
Line,

44 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Line, which ought to be two Yards longer than your Rod ; cast it from you with *Art*, so nicely, that the *Artificial* Fly only falls upon the Water ; then draw it gently up the Stream, upon the Surface of the River. A cloudy Morning or Evening, with a gentle Breeze of Wind, sufficient to raise a Curl upon the Water, yields good Sport.

When the *Salmon* rises at the Fly, upon which you must keep your Eyes fixed very attentively, give a gentle Jerk, that you may hook him ; which done, humour him in letting him run which way he will. Do not check him, lest he break your Line from your Rod, and wind it up as fast as you find that he returns, otherwise he will entangle and break your Tackle. Remember to keep him so tight, that he may bend your Rod pretty much ; then sink or lower your Elbow, so that your Hand be raised up, and you will have the better Command over him : For if you suffer him to straiten your Rod, he will soon make his Escape from you. As he swims away, follow him gently, but do not come within Sight of him. He will be apt to spring or leap
out

The Gentleman Angler. 45

out of the Water ; at such a time allow him Line enough ; and when you do perceive that he lies at the Bottom, have Patience for a while ; and be not surprized if he does this often, for he will strive to break from your Hook. Having waited for the Space of six or seven Minutes, draw your Line pretty tort ; and if he runs, then give him Liberty as before. When he is thoroughly tired, draw him gently to the Shore, or the Side of the Bank, where you see the most convenient Place for landing him ; then take him out, either by drawing your Landing Net over his Head, (never over the Tail of any Fish) or by fastening your Landing Hook under his Gills. It will be much safer, if you have a Companion, to let him perform this friendly Office for you ; because, if the *Salmon* should not be thoroughly tired, he will be apt to swim away ; and then you may manage him, having the Command of your Rod.

The Way of Angling for *Salmon* with a Bait, is after this Manner : Take a Dozen of large *Red* or *Lob-worms*, well purged, cleaned, and scoured in *Moss* ;
draw

46 *The Gentleman Angler.*

draw them over your Hook one by one, and let the last cover it, as you have been shewn before, in baiting your Hook with a *Lob-worm*: Then draw them close upon one another, that they may appear as one Lump; and having affixed Lead enough to your Line, about twelve Inches above your Hook, sufficient to sink it, drop your Bait gently into a deep Hole in the River, or close under a Bank, which latter Place the *Salmon* will chuse for Shelter.

Having lain a Minute or two at the Bottom, draw it up and down gently; and if a *Salmon* be there, and he has an Inclination to feed, he will take your Bait; when you have done this half a dozen times, and do not perceive that he bites, it will be in vain to repeat it oftener; for you may conclude that there is not any *Salmon* there, or that he has no Inclination to your Bait.

The properest and most likely Hours for Sport, in Angling this Way, are before Ten o' Clock in the Morning, and after Six in the Evening; but between Ten and Six it will scarce answer your Expectation, except it be immediately
after,

The Gentleman Angler. 47

after, or during a short Shower of Rain; for that increases his Appetite, and he will look out for Food of one Kind or another.

In Angling for *Salmon*, with a Bait, your Line must be stronger than what you used with the *Artificial Fly*, and likewise the Top-joint of your Rod. He will require as much Art and Skill in managing him, when hooked by this Method of Angling, as when by the former. If this Bait prove unsuccessful, you may use a small live Fish, and running your Hook through, under the Back-fin, let him swim about the Hole, (having taken off the Lead from your Line) and, in all Probability, the *Salmon* will snap at him, for he is a Fish of Prey, and will feed upon those that are small: If he takes this Bait, endeavour to hook him as fast as you can.

S A L M O N - F R Y,

ARE a very delicate and palatable Fish: in Angling for them, you must have a fine single Hair Line, and a taper Rod; your Artificial Flies must be very
small,

48 *The Gentleman Angler.*

small, and should be placed at the Distance of half a Foot from each other, and it matters not of what Colour they are. As you draw your Line upon the Surface of the Water, you may perceive three or four of them to rise at one time. They are very greedy, and will afford Sport (such as it is) all Day long; and you may draw them out of the Water with Safety, as soon as you have hooked them.

SALMON PEALE,

ARE in every respect equal to the *Salmon*, save only that they are not so large, for they seldom exceed sixteen Inches in Length; they seem to be a Species of the *Salmon*, and some give them the Preference: They are fast, luscious, and fleaky, like the *Salmon*, and abound principally in the fresh Water Rivers in the Counties of *Dorset* and *Devon*. They will rise at the Artificial Fly like the *Salmon*; but the best Way of taking them is with a *Brandling* well scoured in *Moss*, especially such as breed in a Tanner's Yard. They bite freely, and
struggle

The Gentleman Angler. 49

struggle hard, delighting in deep Holes, and chuse the Root or Stump of a Tree for Harbour ; they lie as near as possible to the upper Part of the Hole, that they may more readily catch what Food the Stream brings down. Drop your Line (without Lead to it, except one single Shot) in the Stream, which will carry it gradually into the Hole ; and when he bites, be not too eager in striking him, and remember to keep out of Sight. He will feed all the Morning, and from five o'Clock in the Afternoon 'till Night : He is in Season all the Summer.

T R O U T,

ARE well-tasted, and much admired ; they are shy and wary, and therefore the *Angler* must keep at a Distance from the Water. *Trout* spawn generally in *October* or *November*, contrary to the natural Course of most other Fish, which spawn in warm Weather, and are to be taken either with the *Artificial Fly*, or with a *Bait*.

When you use the *Artificial Fly*, your Rod and Line must be proportioned to
D the

50 *The Gentleman Angler:*

the Breadth of the River : six Yards is generally a good Length ; and the Rod, as well as the Line, must be taper. Now though you may, and indeed ought to have great Variety of *Artificial Flies*, ready made ; yet the best way to try what will best please the *Trout*, is, when you come to the River, to look narrowly upon the Water, or to beat a Bush that hangs over the River, and then match your *Artificial Fly* in Colour to the living Fly, which you will find upon the Water : The same Method is to be used in Angling for *Trout*, as is used for *Salmon*.

There are several Baits for *Trout* : The first is the *May Fly*, taken in the Month of *May*, upon old large Trees ; it is of a brownish Colour, much coveted by the *Trout*, and to be used after this Manner : Bury the Point and Beard of your Hook, which must be small, in the Back of the *Fly*, between his Wings, and let the Bottom Link of your Line consist of three Hairs, or let it be the *Indian Grass*, without any Lead or Shot to either, and your Line should be no longer than your Rod : Then shake your Fly twice or thrice over the Water, that the Shadow

of

of it may be seen before it touches the Water, if you suspect a Trout to be there ; the best Places are in a deep Stream, near a Bush or Stump, or the Piles of a Bridge ; let your *Fly* drop easy upon the Surface of the Water, and if there be a Trout near, he will rise at it eagerly.

There are other *Baits*, some of which are to be used a little way under the Water, and others at the Bottom of the Water, or Mid-water : Of the former are the live *Minnow*, (and how to bait your Hook with him has been already shewn) and the *Stone Leach*, with which you are to bait your Hook after the same manner. They are to be used with a Float to your Line, and should not be above four Foot under Water, or less, if the Water be not deep. The rest are *Gentles*, *Caddice*, *Codbait*, and the like. *Gentles* may be used with a Float, about eighteen Inches under Water ; or without a Float, by drawing your Line down the Stream, especially if the Water be foul ; the *Caddice*, *Codbait*, and such-like, are to be put upon your Hook like the *Gentles*, and to be drawn up against the Stream as often as they sink to the

52 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Bottom : Two or more may be put upon the Hook at once, as you find the Water thicker or clearer : If you angle in weedy Rivers, then make use of the *Indian Grass*, a small Hook, and two *Caddice*, or *Codbait*, &c.

The last Sort of Baits which I shall mention, are the *Red Worm*, the *Lob Worm*, and the *Brandling* ; with these you angle at the Bottom ; and the latter, well scoured in *Moss*, is what *Anglers* call a *Killing Bait*.

A Trout feeds, in the Day-time, from Eight in the Morning until Eleven ; and in the Afternoon, from Three until Five ; but late in the Evening, early in the Morning, are the best Times for Angling for him with the *Artificial Fly*, which, 'tis supposed, he takes more out of *Wantonness* than *Hunger*.

As the largest Trouts seldom stir out of their Holes all Day, they chuse the Night-time for Feeding ; and the Manner of taking them, at that Season, is on the Surface of the Water, with a Bait, or *Artificial Fly* : The Bait is a large *Lob Worm* or two ; you must chuse a deep Hole, where the Water runs smooth and quiet ;

The Gentleman Angler. 53

quiet ; then draw your Bait upon the Top of the Water too and fro ; and if there be a large *Trout* in the Hole, he will take it, imagining it to be a *Frog* or *Water Mouse*, which they hunt at Night. The old *Trout* is both subtle and fearful, but in the Night feeds boldly ; and when he has taken your Bait, let him have Time to gorge it ; for he will not so easily forsake it, as his Custom is, when you meet with him by Chance, in the *Day-time*. If you use the *Artificial Fly* for him, let it be *white*, and pretty large. *Trout* feed best at Bottom, in the Months of *March*, *April*, and *May*, and part of *June* ; though he will bite well in *July*, *August*, and *September*. If you Angle for *Trout* immediately after a Shower, use the *Brandling*, the *Red Worm*, or *Caddice*, *Codbait*, and such-like, for the Bottom ; but for the Surface, chuse such a Fly as you shall find upon the Water, presently after the Shower.

The following Observations have been found, by Experience, to hold good in the *North*, and in the *West* of *England*. Angle for *Trout* in the Month of *March*, with the *Red Worm*, at the Bottom of

54 *The Gentleman Angler.*

the River ; and in a Stream, with a *Minnow*, which you must draw up and down. In *April*, take the *Canker Worm* that breeds in great Trees, the *Red Snail*, the *Bob Worm* that is bred under Cow Dung, and the Bait which breeds upon the *Fern Leaf*. In *June*, use the *Red Worm*, nip of his Head, and put a *Codbait* or *Caddice* first upon your Hook, and then the *Red Worm*. In *July*, take the *Red Worm* and the *Codbait* together, or a *Brandling* alone. In *August*, take a *Flesh Fly*, and a little Piece of the Fat of Bacon, and bind them together about the Hook. In *September* and *October* use the *Red Worm*, and the *Minnow*, as directed for the Month of *March*.

It would be in vain to mention all the Rivers in *England* which are remarkable for having good *Trout*, or to give a Description of the various Sorts of that Kind of Fish : Let it suffice to say, that the greatest Plenty of both are in *Hampshire* ; and the *White Trout*, the *Brown Trout* with *White Spots*, and the *Yellow-spotted Trout*, are the three best Sorts (the one preferable to the other, as they are mentioned in Course) except

cept the *Fordwich Trout*, near *Canterbury*, which are reckoned the nicest of Fish; many of them are as large as *Salmon*, but distinguished by their different Colours, and, in their best Season, cut very white. These Trouts remain Nine Months in the Sea, and annually observe their Time of coming into the fresh Water almost to a Day, but do not continue there above Three Months.

PIKE, or LUCE,

ARE a firm, good Fish, but so very greedy and voracious, that they scarce refuse any thing that comes in their way; and therefore some People call them the *Fresh-water Shark*, or *River Tyrant*. They will feed upon their own Species, and a *Pike* of thirty Inches in Length will prey upon another of fifteen Inches. When they are large, they are called *Pike*; when small, they have the Appellation of *Jacks*. The River *Pike* are preferable to what are taken in the Salt Water, and their usual Time of Spawning is in *April* or *May*; then they go into Crooks and Ditches, and while the

D 4. *Spawner*

56 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Spawner is casting her Eggs, the *Milter* hovers over, but does not touch her ; and indeed they ought not to be taken 'till *August* or *September*. They have more Courage than the *Trout*, or the *Salmon*, and are not so easily scared, except upon a sudden Approach. The *Male* is much preferable to the *Female*. There are five Ways to catch *Pike* ; but as two only belong to the *Angler*, (the others being what we call *Poaching*, which is unworthy of an *Angler*) I shall treat of them separately : These Two Ways are, *Trowling*, and *Snapping* ; the former is most healthful and diverting.

The Tackle to be used in *Trowling*, is a Rod in Length seven Foot ; a Line at least thirty Yards long, rolled about your Reel ; a Leaded Hook with two Links of Wire fastened to it ; a Ring to be fixed to the Top of your Rod ; a Landing Net, and a Landing Hook, with a Stick four Foot long, into the End of which you screw your Landing Hook ; you must also have a Bag, or Net, for your Fish. It will be necessary and convenient to carry two or three Hooks with you, lest any Mischance should happen,

happen, and you then be deprived of your Sport, for want of a Supply, when one Hook is either broken or lost.

Of TROWLING.

BEING thus equipt, go early to the River in the Morning ; and it will be proper that you observe the Manner of *Trowling*, as used by an expert *Angler*, before you do attempt the Sport. The Method of fixing your Bait is after this Manner :

Put the End of your Wire into the Mouth of a *Dace*, or *Gudgeon*, (for these are the best Baits) and run it along through the Body, until it comes out at the Middle of the Tail. But forasmuch as the Wire may be apt to bend, I advise, that you provide a *Fish-needle*, which you may buy at the *Fish-tackle* Shops ; and having placed your Wire upon the Neck-end of your Needle, run it through the Body of the Fish, and you may with Ease draw the Wire after it. Fix your Hook on one Side of the Fish, and let the Point be near his Eye ; then sew up his Mouth with strong Thread,

58 *The Gentleman Angler.*

to keep the Hook from moving out of its Place ; then take a fine Needle and Thread, and run it through the Head of the Fish, a little below the Eye, and afterwards run it through again below the Gills, and fasten it on the other Side ; so that the Gills being thus secured and preserved, will not be damaged by any thing that rubs against it in *Trowing*. The Fin of the Tail should be cut off, and the Tail fastened to the Top of the Wire, otherwise the Bait will not lie smooth and even upon the Hook. It is to be fastened thus : Take a Needle and strong Thread, run through the Tail of the Fish, on one Side of the Wire, and do the same on the other Side of the Wire ; then fasten it, and run it afterwards through the Eye of the Wire, and again through the Tail of the Fish ; afterwards twist it round the Wire, and tie it so fast that it may not slip. Having made a Loop at the End of your Line, and fastened a Swivel to it, put it thro' the Ring on the Top of your Rod ; and your Bait being ready, hang it on your Swivel.

You

The Gentleman Angler. 59

You are now prepared for *Trowing* ; but remember, that when you come near the Bank of the River, to keep out of Sight, and to drop your Bait down the Side of the Bank, and afterwards, on the Right and Left Hand, before you shew yourself : For, as *Pike* love Shelter, or Harbour, because they can from thence rush on their Prey, as they swim by them ; so, if you suddenly appear, you will, in all Probability, frighten them away. Having Trowled *at Home*, (as *Anglers* term it) then veer out more Line, and reach the opposite Shore ; and as soon as your Bait begins to sink, draw back your Line, by degrees, and *quoil* it up with your Left-hand. Thus you must be always in Motion : Neither must your Bait lie still ; for its Motion in the Water is what alarms the *Pike*, who imagines it to be a live Bait.

If you meet not with Sport, when you have thrown out your Bait half a dozen times, then go forwards to another Place ; and when a *Pike* takes your Bait, which you will perceive by a sudden Jerk, then do not check him, but

60 *The Gentleman Angler.*

let him *run* where he will, allowing him as much Line as he will take ; for his Nature is such, that as soon as he seizes the Bait, he *runs* as fast as he can to his *Harbour*, and there *pouches* his Prey. You must therefore give him Time ; some will require more, and some less : If he be hungry, he will *pouch* it soon ; if he is not, he will keep it between his Teeth the Space of half an Hour, or more. As soon therefore as you find that he has reached his Harbour, which you will easily know, by his not drawing any more of the Line with him, then lay down you Rod, and waiting as long as you might have smoak'd a Pipe of Tobacco, take up your Rod, and draw your Line gently, as before : If you perceive that he has hold of it still, draw your Line tort ; and if he pulls, give Way a little ; then draw again, 'till at last you get a Sight of him. If you see the Bait cross his Mouth, then let him go ; if not, you may be assured he has pouched it, and then give him a sudden Jerk, that the Beard of the Hook may fasten in his Stomach : But if he should run away a little after that he has first
taken

taken your Bait, then take up your Rod and Line as fast as you can, and give him a Jerk, as I just now mentioned. If the River be clear, you ought to let him run the Length of twenty Yards, and then check him ; this do until you have tired him : But, if there are Trees or Stumps in the Water, fail not to keep your Line tight, and prevent him from going near them, which he will endeavour to do ; and if you permit him, he will then intangle your Line about the Roots or Stumps of the Trees ; and if the Waters are deep, you will lose the Fish, your Bait, and a Part of your Line.

When he is sufficiently weary, then draw him to the Side of the Bank, and make use of your *Landing-net*, or *Landing-hook*, as directed in Landing a *Salmon*. Do not offer to *weigh* him, that is, to lift him out of the Water, with your Line and Hook only ; for though you may think that he is so much tired that he is not able to stir, yet you may find yourself deceived. If he be a sizeable Fish, and you pretend to *weigh* him, you will perceive his *Pouch* to come out of his Mouth, so plain, that
you

62 *The Gentleman Angler.*

you may see your Hook ; but then, as soon as he has quitted the Water, and before you can get him upon the Shore, he will give a sudden Spring, and break his Hold : By this Means you will lose your Desire, be deprived of your Expectation ; and the *Pike*, if grievously wounded, will perish in the Water.

S N A P P I N G,

Is the other Way, by which *Anglers* catch *Pike*. You must provide a strong Rod sixteen or seventeen Foot long, with a strong Whale-bone Top to it, as thick as the upper Part of your Little-finger ; affix to your Rod a strong Line, not altogether so long as your Rod ; at the End of your Line place your *Snap-hook*, which you may make after this Manner : Take twelve or fourteen Inches of *Gimp*, and two large *Salmon-hooks* ; turn the Hooks Back to Back, and in the Middle of them place the *Gimp* ; whip or tie them fast together with a Piece of Silk well waxed, so that the Hooks cannot turn, nor the *Gimp* be drawn from them ; then take a *Perch-hook*, and place it between the
other

other two Hooks, toward the upper Part of the Shanks, and fasten it with a fine waxed Silk, about eighteen Inches from the Bottom of your Line ; put on a large Float made of *Cork* ; and under it, at a convenient Distance, fix as much Lead to your Line as will poise the Float, and keep the Bait from the other Part of the Water. They who think it too troublesome to make their own Tackle, may buy them ready made at the proper Shops. The best Baits, are the *Gudgeon*, and the *Dace*, or a small *Roch*; the two first are most preferable ; and if you use the *Dace*, or the *Roch*, let them not exceed four Inches in Length. Fix your Bait upon your small Hook, by running it under his back Fin ; and being thus equipt, let your Bait swim down the Current ; and when you perceive your Float to be drawn under Water, give a strong Jerk ; for you may then conclude that the *Pike* has laid hold of it. When he is hooked, you must treat him after a different Manner from any that has been hitherto prescribed ; for whereas you were directed before, to give a Fish Liberty to play, after you had hooked him,

him,

64 *The Gentleman Angler.*

him, the contrary is now to be observed. You must therefore govern him with a strait and stiff Line ; for if he can by any means make it slack, he will soon get loose ; wherefore you are to take Care to draw him on the Shore, if a convenient Place will offer ; if not you must then have Recourse to your *Landing-hook*, or *Landing-net* : And tho' he will flounce and struggle hard while he is in the Water, yet you must not regard it, if you have a mind to catch him. I am very sensible that many will trust to the Strength of their Line, and not make use of the *Gimp*, or *Brass-wire* ; but this is a great Argument of Imprudence : For as a *Pike* has several Rows of Teeth, and as those Teeth are numerous, sharp, and of different Sizes, it is two to one that he *sheers* or cuts the Line ; which, though it may by Chance bring him to the Shore, yet it will be so mangled, that there will be no trusting to it afterwards ; whereas he can do very little, if any Damage, to the *Gimp*.

I shall give this Advice concerning *Trowling*, which is all I shall say, in relation to the *Pike* ;

When

When he has taken the Bait, and will not pouch it, but will hold it in his Mouth, and come to the Bank-side, as you draw in your Line, and then quit it, which he will often do ; or if he cast it from him, soon after he has first taken it ; it will then be in vain to try him any longer : All you have to do, is then to use your *Snap*, and you need not doubt but he will quickly take the Bait.

C A R P

SPAWN generally in *May*, or the Beginning of *April*, especially the *River-carp*, according to the different Nature of the Waters which they frequent, and the different Soils. At Spawning-time they may be seen in large Shoals, and are then said to be going to *Hill*, (a Phrase which *Anglers* use, when *Carp* are going to spawn). The *River-carp* is preferable to the *Pond-carp* : The latter have a muddy Taste ; but the former are free from it, and very sweet. It is a very bony Fish, yet much admired ; which Men of the nicest Palates attribute more to the Sauce, than to the Delicacy

66 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Delicacy of the Fish. The Time for Angling for them is very early in the Morning, and late in the Evening ; they will also bite at Noon, if disturbed from their Retreat by a sudden Flash of Water. They chuse deep Holes, with a very gentle Stream ; and their beloved Places of Residence, are the Stumps or Roots of Trees ; he is subtle and strong, and your Line and Rod must be proportioned to his Strength.

The best Baits are the *Marish* and *Flag-worms* ; but you must not be too eager or hasty in striking him when he bites, for he will nibble some Time before he will take the Bait into his Mouth, and then you ought to ease Part of your Line about ten or a dozen Inches ; and take Care that, as soon as you have hooked a *Carp*, you keep him from his *Harbour* or *Retreat*, to which Place he will endeavour to retire, as soon as he perceives that the Hook has prick'd him ; but if you suffer him to go thither, you will lose both Fish and Line.

Carp will bite also at Paste : There are several Sorts, but I look upon the following one to be best ; viz.

Take

The Gentleman Angler. 67

Take the Flesh of a *Rabbit*, and *Bean-flower*, sifted very fine ; mix these together with *Honey*, and incorporate them in a Mortar, or work them in your Hands into small Balls fit for Use ; temper it to such a stiff Substance, that it may not wash off your Hook, neither let it be too hard : And if you mix *Virgin's Wax* or *clarified Honey* with it, it will keep all the Year. If it be too pale, you may make it of a true Flesh-colour, by mixing a little *Vermilion* with it.

It will be convenient to put a Float upon your Line, made of a *Swan's Quill* ; which, when drawn under the Water the Depth of two or three Inches, will direct you when to strike. As *Carp* are very shy, so you must not come near the River-side ; and when you lay in your Bait, drop it down as gently as possible.

When you have found a good Hole, it will not be amiss to bait it well every Day, by which Means you will be sure to draw the *Carp* thither from other Parts of the River. The best Method of doing this effectually, is, to provide a large Tin-pot, punched with Holes, and
to

68 *The Gentleman Angler.*

to put therein as many *Worms* as you think proper ; then fasten a Line and a Piece of Lead to it, and sink it in the Hole, and so let the *Worms* creep out by Degrees ; then draw out your Tin Vessel, and lay it by for farther Use. This ought to be done often. The common Method is, to cast the *Worms* in by Handfuls ; but the Stream will be apt to wash them away from the Place for which they were designed.

If you angle for *Carp* in Ponds, you must rise by Break of Day, especially if you design to catch those which are large ; and the best Bait which you can use is the *Red Worms* well scoured and dipt in *Tar*, or else *Caddice*, just as their Inclination leads them. You must allow them the same Time to gorge your Bait, as was directed in angling for *River-carp* : Your Rod and Line must be long, because you must lay in as far as you can from the Shore, and your Float must be large ; though indeed you may draw them nearer to you, by baiting the Place, as before is shewn, or by casting in the *Worms* by Handfuls ; for as it is Still-water in Ponds, the *Worms* cannot

cannot be carried at any considerable Distance from the Place you intend. You may also cast in some boiled *Malt*, which they will often take.

Though *Carp* love Mud, yet they delight not in weedy, but in clear Water, except a few Weeds, which they chuse for Shelter. If the Water be very fat, and full of Feed, then drop your Bait gently near the Pond-side, using a very small Float, and no Lead upon your Line : You must keep out of Sight, and the *Carp* will imagine your Bait to be a Worm coming out of the Bank.

When you angle with Paste, the better to beguile the *Carp*, Pellets of Paste should be thrown into the Water, some Hours before you undertake your Trial of Skill with the Angle-rod ; and if you throw in small Pellets of Paste a Day or two before, you are the more likely to succeed. If you angle in a large Pond, that you may the better draw the *Carp* together, throw into one certain Place, either *Grains*, or Blood mixed with *Cow-dung*, or Bran mixed with the Crust of White-bread, being well soak'd in Water and made into a Paste ; or any Garbage,

70 *The Gentleman Angler.*

as Chicken-guts, or the like. As you are angling with Paste, whether in a Pond or River, chew a little white or brown Bread, and cast it in about the Place where your Float lies. Crumbs of white Bread and Honey mix'd together, and worked up into a Paste, are very good. Angle for *Carp* at the Bottom, if you chuse the River ; and in Mid-water, if you delight in Pond-angling.

Notwithstanding what has been already said concerning *Pond Carp*, I have observ'd, that in your Middle-sized Ponds, which have been made for Profit or Pleasure, or perhaps for both, *Carp* will swim about the Banks of such Ponds at Noon, provided it be a fair Day, and the Sun appears with Lustre. I have often seen them *prime* about twelve or one o' Clock among the Weeds : Whether this be for Sport, or thro' Wantonness, (as some *Anglers* affirm) is of little Signification. I am apt to think, that their *priming* at such Hours, is to catch such Flies as fall upon the Surface of the Water. However, this I know by Experience, that if they meet with a Bait in their Way, which is agreeable to them, they will gorge it most

vora-

The Gentleman Angler. 71

voraciously, provided that Time enough be allowed them to do it.

Now what has the *Angler* to do in this Case? I will inform him: Let him equip himself with a Rod, whose uppermost Joint must be strong, and pliable withal, particularly the Whale-bone Part: He ought also to have a strong Silk-line, and his Hook should be large enough for a *Lob-worm*. Having prepared such Sort of Tackle, let him walk about the Pond, but at some Distance from it; and if he observes the *Carp* to *prime*, let him search for a Place about the Bigness of the Crown of his Hat, clear and free from Weeds; but if he cannot find any such Place, then let him make one, by breaking or cutting the Weeds. This being done, he must put his Tackle in Order, but not use any Float; nor must he have any more than one single Shot upon his Line, which should be of the larger Sort. When he has baited his Hook, let him drop it as gently as possible into the Place that is free from Weeds, and as near to the Side of the Pond as conveniently may be: His Shot or Lead must lie upon the Leaf of the Stalk of the Weed, so that
his

72 *The Gentleman Angler.*

his Bait will not be above eight Inches deep in the Water, and yet have Liberty enough to move about. He must retire from the Side of the Pond, yet not so far but that he may plainly perceive the Shot that is upon the Leaf of the Weed: The *Carp*, which continually roams about, and does not continue in one Place, will soon discover the Worm. When he perceives that his Shot or Lead has been drawn away, together with about ten or twelve Inches of the Line, he may then venture to strike; and when he finds that he has hooked his Fish, he must keep him tite to it, and not suffer him to go where he pleases; for then he will shoot in among the Weeds, and intangle the Line to such a Degree, that it will be impossible to get it loose, except the Weeds be cut away. He must therefore either take him out of the Pond by main Force, or draw him by the Side of the Bank into clear Water, free from Weeds or Thrash, and so play him 'till he be tired; and then he may take him out with his Landing-net, or weigh him, if he can use no other Way. If the *Angler* observes this Method, he may catch several

The Gentleman Angler. 73

several Brace of *Carp*, if the Pond be well stored, and have Diversion enough besides. This is the Manner in which I have angled for *Pond Carp*, and been very successful therein. I am sensible that many *Anglers* are very tenacious of the old Opinion, viz. That *Carp* will not feed, except it be early in a Morning, or late in the Evening. But, with Submission to them, I will affirm, That they are tenacious of a very great Error, by embracing that Opinion: Experience is a Demonstration to the contrary; and if they will follow the Rules which I have here laid down, they will quickly be undeceived. Besides, why should it be imagined that *Carp*, above all other Fish, should not have an Appetite to feed from four a' Clock in the Morning 'till eight or nine at Night? Let not therefore the young *Angler* be intimidated by the erroneous Assertion of such positive Persons: For how can they tell whether a *Carp* will feed at Noon, in the Summer-time, when the Weather is calm, the Sky serene, and the Day warm, who never made any Trial? Let him not therefore give Credit to such a vain
E Report,

74 *The Gentleman Angler:*

Report, but let him trust to Experience.

P E R C H,

Is a Fish of Prey, pleasant, and well-tasted; he bites boldly and freely, and especially in a soft Rain, or after a violent Shower, and are oftenest found under the Willows, and other Trees, or at the Tail of Grass or Weeds; and in Winter-season they keep in deep Waters, well-sheltered: They generally spawn in *June*, or the Beginning of *July*, and will feed all Day, but best in the Morning early, and late in the Evening: If you angle for them at other Times, chuse such Places on which the Sun shines least. The best Baits in general are the *Lob-worm*, or the *Blew-tail* newly taken out of Cow-dung. If you try the Live Bait, which they will not refuse, let it be the *Minnow*, and bait your Hook with him, as before directed; or you may run your Hook through the Flesh of his Back, under the Back-fin, or through the Upper-lip: Put a Float upon your Line, and Lead enough to
poise

poise it ; and whether you use the *Worm* or *Minnow*, strike not too soon, but allow him Time to gorge.

It would be convenient, when you use the *Minnow*, to have your Hook whipt to a Link of small Brass-wire, which hang upon a Swivel, at the Bottom of your Line ; for as you may often meet with a small *Jack*, he will take your *Minnow*, and sheer your Hair-line, or shatter and damage a Silk-line.

If your Baits are spent, you may cut a small Piece from the Tail of a *Dace*, or a *Roch* ; place it upon your Hook, so as to cover the Point, and the *Perch*, who is very voracious, will not refuse to take it, if he be hungry.

If there be any Back-streams, which have immediate Communication with the River, chuse to angle there for *Perch* ; or in Ditches through which the Waters run ; but then it must be very early, or very late. When you angle with a *Worm*, let it drag upon the Ground ; when with a Live Bait, then in Mid-water. — You will meet with Success, if you observe the following Method ; viz.

76 *The Gentleman Angler.*

In *March* use the *Red-worm* at the Bottom. In *April*, the Worm that breeds under the Bark of the *Oak-tree*, or a young *Frog* with the Feet cut off, or the *Red-snail*. In *May*, the Bait that breeds on the *Osier-leaf*, and the *Dock-worm*, or the Bait that breeds on the *Oak-leaf*, or the *Hawthorn*. In *June*, the *Red-worm* with the Head cut off, and a *Cod-bait* put before it, or the *Dor*. Take the large *Grashopper*, or *Grub* that breeds in a *Dunghil*, for *July*: And in *August*, young *Bees* and *Hornets*. In *September*, and the Months following, use the *Red-worms*, or two *Brandlings*.

B A R B E L,

Is accounted, by most People, to be a very coarse Fish; yet it is firm, and well-tasted; and there being such Plenty of them, may perhaps be one Reason why they are not so much esteemed as the *Carp*; for they will eat full as well, if you dress them *Carp-fashion*. They spawn in *April*; and some of them are so large, that they will weigh twelve
or

The Gentleman Angler. 77

or fourteen Pounds ; and therefore your Rod and Line ought to be very strong, and fastened with Rings, and a *Winch* or *Wheel*, as directed for the *Salmon-rod*. The best Time for Angling for *Barbel*, is very early in the Morning ; the Bait is a *Lob-worm*, well scoured in fresh sweet *Moss* ; for he is a nice Feeder, though he bites freely. They lie in deep Water, at the End of a Current, and sometimes in a still Stream, during *Summer-time* ; they will bite also about five o'Clock in the Evening, if they be driven from their Harbour by a sudden Flash of Water.

At the latter End of Summer they resort chiefly to the Banks of Sand or Gravel, in deep Waters, or at the Tail of a rapid Stream, among Weeds, or under Osiers. Their Spawn is surfeiting and dangerous, and whoever eats thereof will break out in Blotches, and red Spots, will loath his Meat, lose his Appetite, and be extremely disorder'd : His Liver is likewise unwholesome.

The two famous Places to angle for *Barbel*, about *London*, are at *Kingston Bridge*, and *Shepperton Pool* ; at the

78 *The Gentleman Angler.*

latter of which Places there is good Accommodation for *Anglers*, a great Quantity of *Barbel*, and good Company, all the *Summer* ; you may there likewise be supplied with Store of Bait at all Times.

A *Barbel-hole* should be constantly baited with *Lob-worms* ; and no *Barbel* ought, by the Rules of *Angling*, to be kill'd, which does not measure Eighteen Inches fairly. A *Barbel* taken in *Byfleet* or *Weybridge* Rivers, of Twenty Inches in Length, will down-weigh another, of the same Length, taken in the *Thames*, by a Pound, or upwards, and is much firmer, fatter, and better-relished.

CHUB, or CHEVIN,

Is a coarse, bony Fish, and the Head is the best Part about him : He spawns in *March*, is very wary and shy, delighting in quick, deep Streams, and loves Shelter ; as Bridges, Trees, Planks, &c. under which are Sandy, or Clay Bottoms. They are cowardly, insomuch that if you once turn them, they are presently

fently dispirited, and you may manage them as you please.

For this Reason, some waggish, merry *Anglers* compare them to *Portuguese* Soldiers, who have very little Inclination to Fighting at any Time, even though the Defence of their Country requires them ; and if their Enemy make a vigorous Attack, they immediately *turn Tail* ; and it is Twenty to One if you can prevail with them, by any Means, to *Face about*.

A *Chub* is a voracious Fish, and will feed all Day long ; but he bites best in the Morning ; and a *Minnow* will allure him at Mid-day. If the Current be strong, and the Water deep, a *Lob-worm* is the best Bait you can use at the Bottom ; but upon the Surface of the Water use a *Grasshopper*, a *Bee*, a *Wasp*, *Caterpillar*, or *Moth* ; and about two Foot under Water he will take a *black Snail*, with his Belly slit, to shew the white Part of it, or a Piece of Cheese. During the *Summer-season*, about Seven o' Clock in the Evening, a *Chub* yields good Diverſion : If then you go into a Pont or Boat, and floating

E 4

down

80 *The Gentleman Angler.*

down the River, over which Willows or other Trees do hang, angle with a *Bee*, *Moth*, &c. as you do with the *artificial Fly* for *Trout*, and they will rise as fast as you can throw out your Line for them.

It is further to be observed, that in Angling for *Chub*, in *March* and *April* he is usually taken with *Worms*; in *May*, *June*, and *July* he will bite at *Cherries*, or at any *Fly*, or at *Beetles*, with their Legs and Wings cut off, or at any Kind of *Snail*, or the *black Bee* that breeds in Clay-walls. In *August* he never refuses the *Grashopper*, on the Top of a swift Stream, or the young *humble Bee* that breeds in long Grass, and is ordinarily found by the Mowers. In the cooler Months, a yellow Paste made of the strongest *Cheese*, and pounded in a Mortar, with a little *Butter* and *Saffron*, (so much of it as is beaten small will turn it to a *Lemon* Colour). The *Spaw*n of a *Chub* is excellent; and he is in Season from the Middle of *May* until *Candlemas*.

There is no Fish better in the Water, to enter a young *Angler*, he is so easily caught;

The Gentleman Angler. 81

caught ; but then it must be in this particular Way : In most hot Days, you find a dozen or twenty *Chubs* floating near the Top of the Water ; place yourself behind some Bush or Tree, and stand as free from Motion as possible ; bait your Hook with a *Grasshopper*, and let it hang a Quarter of a Yard short of the Water ; to which End, you must find or make some convenient Rest or Stand for your Rod, and it is probable that the *Chubs* will sink down towards the Bottom of the Water, at the Shadow of your Rod, (for a *Chub* is the fearfullest of all Fishes) and will do so, if but a Bird flies over him, and makes the least Shadow on the Water ; nevertheless, they will presently rise, and lie soaring near the Top again, at which time move your Rod very slowly to that *Chub* you intend to catch. Let your Bait fall gently upon the Water, three or four Inches before him, and he will infallibly take it ; for he is a Leather-mouth'd Fish, having his Teeth near his Throat, of which a Hook does scarce ever lose its Hold ; and therefore give him Play enough, before you offer to take him out of the Water.

B R E A M,

WHEN full grown, is a very large, flat Fish, and is very scarce in the Rivers within twenty Miles of *London*: His chiefest Delight is in a Pond, where, if he likes the Water and Air, he will breed exceedingly, in some Ponds so fast, as to over-stock them. His Tail is forked, his Scales set in an excellent Order; he has large Eyes, a small sucking Mouth, and two Sets of Teeth. The *Milter* is observed to have two large Milts, and the *Spawner* two Bags of Spawn. Their Hours of feeding are extremely early, or extremely late; but if it be a lowring Day, and the Wind blows strong, he will bite at any time of the Day. As his Mouth is small, so your Hook must be proportioned to the Size of his Mouth; and therefore as you will be necessitated to use strong Tackle, so your Hook should be whipt to an *Indian-grass*.

He delights in the Middle of a deep large Hole, with a very slow Stream; and the most common Bait is the *Flag* or *red Worm*, well scoured in *Moss* and *Fennel*.

The Gentleman Angler. 83

Fennel. He will also take a Paste made of brown Bread and Honey, or *Gentles*, or the Worm like a Maggot, which is found at *Dock-roots*, *Flags*, or *Rushes*, in watry Places. In *June* and *July* he will bite at a *Grasshopper*, or at the *Flies* which are found on *Flags* that grow near the Water-side.

The Hole wherein you design to angle ought to be baited after this Manner: Take a Peck of sweet gross-ground *Barley-malt*, boil it in a Kettle, then strain it through a Bag into a Tub; and when it is near cold, take it to the Water-side, about eight or nine o' Clock in the Evening, and not before: Throw in two Parts of your Ground-bait, squeezed hard between your Hands; it will presently sink to the Bottom; and take Care that it lodges in the very Place where you intend to angle.

When you angle for the *Bream*, lay in your Bait softly, in the Middle of your Ground-bait, but let not your Lead be above two Foot under Water; and when he bites, he will throw up your Float, which must be of a middle Size; and when you perceive it to lie flat upon

84 *The Gentleman Angler.*

the Surface of the Water, you may then conclude that he has gorged your Bait. Strike gently, and hold your Rod at a Bent a little while ; for if you both pull, you may lose your Game, if not your Hook and Line.

As his delightful Harbour is the *Water-dock*, under which he lies, so you must take Care to keep him from thence, when you have hooked him : He will strive to get thither, that he may entangle your Line about the Stalk of the *Water-dock*, which being naturally very tough, it will be impossible to disengage yourself from thence. His being a flat Fish, as I said before, causes him to draw much Water ; which, though it does not increase his natural Strength, nevertheless it will add to the Difficulty you will find in taking him. He affords noble Sport, and is very shy to be landed ; and when you have finished your Day's Work, then cast in the Remainder of your Ground-bait.

Having used this Method and Sport for three or four Days, the *Bream* will grow very shy and wary ; then desist for two or three Days, or longer ; and in
the

the Place where you last baited, and intend to renew your Bait, take a Turf of short Grass, about the Bigness or Circumference of a Pewter-plate, and with a Needle and Green Thread, fasten, one by one, as many little *red Worms* as will almost cover the Turf: Make a Hole in the Middle of a round Board, placing the Turf thereon; then put a Cord through, and tying it to a Pole, let it down to the Bottom of the Water, for the Fish to feed upon, without Disturbance, for about three or four Days; and after that time, when you have drawn it away, you will find Sport almost beyond your Expectation.

T E N C H,

ARE a Still-water Fish, and delight in Ponds more than Rivers. He is a Leather-mouth'd Fish, like the *Barbel*; but as this latter chuses a Gravel or Sand, so the former takes Pleasure in Mud. One *Tench* that is taken in a River is worth six taken in a Pond. Some *Tench* spawn in *May*, others in *June*: And the same

86 *The Gentleman Angler.*

same Caution and Method is to be used in Angling for this Fish, which has been prescribed for *Carp*.

If you angle for *Tench*, you must repair thither by Dawn of Day, especially if you design to take those that are large, which seldom exceed twelve Inches : Your Tackle must be strong, because they delight very much to be among the Weeds ; and you will meet with little Sport after the Sun rises. Renew your Sport about six o' Clock in the Afternoon ; and let your Ground-bait be the same as directed for *Carp*.

When you angle in a River for *Tench*, chuse the deepest and most silent Waters ; they ought to be so still, and the Surface so smooth and even, that it cannot give the least Motion to your Float. Angle from Day-light to seven o' Clock in the Morning, and from five in the Afternoon until the Night compels you to give over. Be not too eager in striking him when he bites ; for as he delights in sucking the Bait, allow him Time, and he will not quit it. The best and most enticing Bait, and indeed you need not use any other, whether for
Pond:

The Gentleman Angler. 87

Pond or River, is the *red Worm* dipt in *Tar* : Or, Take the clotted black Blood out of the Heart of a Sheep, some fine Flower and Honey, temper them well together, and make them of the Consistence of an Unguent, and anoint the *red Worm* with it. I know not which is preferable, this, or the *Tar* : No other Bait is to be compared to either of them. *June*, *July*, and *August* are the only Months in which you must expect to have any Sport with *Tench* ; and there is a greater Plenty in the *River Stower*, than in any other.

GREYLING, or UMBER,

SELDOM exceeds eighteen Inches in Size : He is good all the Year, but is principally in Season in *December* ; at which Time he is Black about the Head, Gills, and down the Back, and his Belly of a dark Grey, dappled with beautiful Black Spots. His Haunts are the same with those of the *Trout*, and he is to be taken the same Way : He will rise twenty times at a Fly ; and if you miss him,
will

88 *The Gentleman Angler.*

will rise again : He lies close all the Winter, comes abroad the latter End of *April*, and swims nimbly in the Middle of the Water.

When you angle for *Greyling*, use a Cork Float, and let not your Bait come within two Foot of the Bottom ; for he is more apt to rise, than to descend to the Bait. In *March* and *April* use the *Red-worm* ; in *May*, the *Green-worm* ; in *June*, the Bait that breeds under the Bark of an Oak ; in *July*, the Bait that breeds on the *Fern-leaf* ; the *Red-worm*, with his Head taken off, and a *Codbait* placed upon the Hook, and the Worm put after it, is another good Bait ; in *August*, the *Red-worm*, and the *Dock-worm* ; and the *Red-worm* all the rest of the Year.

F L O U N D E R S,

ARE firm and good ; so innocent in their Nature, and so nutritive, that Physicians order them to be given to sick Persons, when their weak Stomachs cannot digest any other Food ; especially those which do frequent and are taken in
the

the Fresh-water Rivers. They are in Season all the Year, except the Time of their Spawning, which is from the latter End of *June* to the Middle of *July*; and as they are then sick and flabby, they are consequently unwholesome. At such a Juncture, if any of them be taken, you may perceive small *Worms*, about the Length of half an Inch, and in some the Length of an Inch, which have (as it were) made a Bed for themselves in the Backs of the *Flounder*: And this will appear to be after the same Nature with certain *Worms* in some Rivers in the *West Indies*, which, by eating away part of the Plank of a Ship, make a Resting-place for themselves therein; and will, in Time, work a Passage through the the thickest Part of the Ship which lies under Water.

Flounders are a shy and wary Fish, and feed at Bottom: Their common and most delightful Places of Resort, are the Sides of Sand-banks, cast up by Mill-streams or Wears, or by strong Eddies. Sometimes they are found at the Tail of Mill-streams, or at a more remote Distance from them, in deep Waters under
or

90 *The Gentleman Angler.*

or next unto the Bank-sides, especially if the Bottom be Sand or Gravel, and has a Declivity. If you find a Hole in a River, which looks ever so likely, and there is Mud at the Bottom, it will be lost Labour to angle therein ; for the least Mud or Filth choaks *Flounders*.

As they are greedy and voracious, they will bite at any *Red-worm* ; but the *Lob-worm*, as it is the largest, will entice them soonest, provided it be well scoured. The usual Way of Angling for them, is to lie upon the Grabble ; that is, to put so much Lead upon your Line, about twelve or fourteen Inches distant from your Hook, that it may keep it steady at Bottom, and the Bait having Liberty to be twirled about by the Water.

If you use a Float, let it lie flat upon the Surface ; and when it first cocks up, and is afterwards drawn under Water, you may then conclude that the *Flounder* has, or is taking your Bait. Remember to allow him Time ; for he will suck all the *Worm* into his Mouth before he gorges it. The Hook which you use, cannot be too small, if you can get your Bait upon it.

M U L L E T S,

ARE a Salt-water Fish, well-tasted, delicate, and much admired. During the Summer-season they come into the Rivers which lie contiguous with the Sea, as often as the Tide flows. Great Plenty of them may be taken with an Angle Rod, which, as well as the Line, must be strong.

They will rise like a *Trout* or *Salmon* at an *artificial Fly*, which must be larger than what is used for the *Trout*; and they will also take a Worm under Water, if you angle about two Foot from the Bottom. They are wonderfully shy and wary, but feed as freely as any Fish, and will afford much Sport and Diversion. They abound chiefly along the *Southern* and *South-west* Parts of *England*, which lie opposite to *France*. The River *Ax* in the County of *Devon*, about two Miles below the Town of *Axminster*, yields vast Quantities of them every time the Tide flows.

S M E L T S,

S M E L T S,

ARE a fine Fish, with a delicate Flavour, and are in Season twice a Year. They make their first Appearance about the Middle of *March*, and the best are taken at *Chelsea* and *Hammersmith*. At the second time of their coming into the River *Thames*, which is in the Month of *August*, they seldom reach higher than *London Bridge*; and the finest and largest are taken opposite to *Deptford* and *Greenwich*. In Angling for them, use the *Pater-noster Line* of one Hair, and let your Bait be *Gentles* or *white Paste*. There are Plenty of them in *Dagenham Breach*, and there they bite as free as in the River; and being now pent up in the inclosed Waters, are in Season much longer than those which are taken in the *Thames*.

R O C H,

Is a coarse, bony Fish; but the largest Sort, which seldom exceed twelve Inches, will yield good Sport. Their Spawning-time

The Gentleman Angler. 93

time is in *June*, and then they are scabby and unwholsome. The chief Bait for them is *boiled Malt, Gentles, white and red PASTE*; but if you angle for them in windy Weather, then use the small *red Worm*. They frequent gentle Streams which are not shallow, and will bite freely. When *Winter* begins to approach, they retire into the *Deeps*, at the End of strong Currents: Here you will have occasion to use more Lead than ordinary; and consequently, the largest Float, and a stronger Line to bear the Lead: And here, as well as in other Places, you must angle about twelve Inches from the Bottom.

They who desire to have much Diversion, and to take many *Rock*, may gratify themselves after the following Manner: Having provided a sufficient Quantity of *Gentles*, go below *London-Bridge*, as far as *Shadwell, Ratcliff, Limehouse*, or thereabouts; then take a Boat, and fasten it to the Stern of a *Collier*, or some other large Vessel, which has lain some Time in the River, and with a short Rod, and a Line not exceeding four Foot in Length, angle there;
and

94 *The Gentleman Angler.*

and remember to put three or four *Gentles* upon your Hook at one time. Let your Float be twelve Inches distant from the Top of your Rod ; and lay in your Bait as close to the Stern of the Ship as you can, and let it swim about three Yards. This must be done when the Tide begins to ebb, and you will not fail of good Sport for two Hours at least ; and what you catch will be large.

R U D,

Is a Sort of *Roch*, but much preferable, and of a golden Colour : He is strong, broad, and thick, and feeds near the Top of the Water. The principal Baits for this Fish are *red Worms*, and *Flies*. They will feed very generously, and divert the *Angler* ; for they struggle hard, and are very strong.

D A C E,

Is a bright, handsome Fish, and spawns generally in *March* ; they love a gravelly Scour ; are very shy and wary, like the *Trout*, and, when frightened, retire into

The Gentleman Angler. 95

the *Deeps*. They are to be taken on the Surface of the Water with a fine, nice *artificial Fly*, and will rise sooner at the Black, than any other Colour. If you angle upon a *Scour*, use *Gentles*, or *Paste*; if in the *Deeps*, let *sodden Malt*, or *House-flies*, be the Bait; and do not suffer your Line, which should be of a single Hair, to be above two or three Foot under Water: They will also take the little *Red-worm*, *Cadice*, or the *Grasshopper*: With the former of these you may use the smallest Float, and one Shot to poise it; and when the *Grasshopper* is your Bait, pull off the Legs, put the Point of your Hook under his Tail, then run it through and bury it in the back-part of his Head; and remember to strike him nimbly as soon as ever he bites.

Dace may also be taken with *Flesh-flies*, upon the Surface of the Water, into whose Backs, between their Wings, you must put your Hook, which should be small. They bite in the Morning and Evening; and when you have a Mind to much Diversion, you must provide a *Cane-rod*, which is the lightest of any; let

96 *The Gentleman Angler.*

let it be at least seventeen Foot in Length: And your Line, which should, from the Middle downwards, consist of single Hairs, must be somewhat longer than your Rod. You ought also to be furnished with a sufficient Quantity of small *House-flies*, which keep in a Glass-bottle stopt with a Cork: Then, about seven or eight o' Clock in the Evening, repair to a *Mill-stream*, and having fixed three or four Hooks with single Hair-links, not above four Inches long, to your Line, bait them with the *Flies*, and angle upon the Surface of the Water on the smoothest Part at the End of the *Mill-stream*, in the same Manner as you were directed to angle for *Trout*. The *Dace* will rise freely, especially if the Sun does not shine on that Part of the Water where you cast your Line, and you may take two or three at a Time. This Sport will continue as long as Day-light will permit you to see your *Flies*.

Dace will also rise at the *Ant-fly* upon the Surface of the Water, if used in a Morning at the Foot of a Current, or *Mill-stream*, or on the *Scour*, before the Sun comes upon the Water.

If

If you angle for them upon the *Thames*, you must prepare your *Ground-bait* made of Bran, a Crust of white Bread soaked and worked up into round Balls, with little Stones in the Middle : Take a Boat ; and when you chuse a Place, let it be under the Wind, when the Water is smooth ; plumb the Depth, and let your Lead be eight Inches from the Bottom ; then cast in your *Ground-bait* about four Yards above the Head of your Boat, and two or three of the Balls nearer to you, and lay in your Bait exactly over your *Ground-bait*. Take your *Swim* as long as your Rod and Line will permit, and always remember not to let it swim too far ; and when you draw it up, give a little Jerk. When your Float sinks, then strike ; and be not too eager to take your Fish out of the Water. This Method may also be observed in angling for *Roch*.

A *Dace* fresh taken, and scotched, and broiled, eats sweeter, and is more palatable than a *Fresh Herring*. *Dace* seldom exceed ten Inches in Length.

I have already observed, that *Dace* spawn generally in *March* ; and I think

98 *The Gentleman Angler.*

I may venture to affirm, that they spawn twice a Year; though I will not take upon me to say in which Month they spawn the second time: And the Reason why I am pretty positive herein, is, that I have found, by Experience, small and middle-sized *Dace*; which I have taken at the latter End of *October*, and Beginning of *November*, to be full of Milts and Roes; and, according to my Judgment, those Fish had a finer Flavour and Relish than any that I took and eat in Summer.

Although I have said much in relation to the several Methods by which the fair *Angler* may catch *Dace*; yet I hope he will not take it amiss, if I impart to him Two things, which I have lately discovered, and which will compleat what I have to say; not doubting but that he will be pleased with them, since he may thereby increase his Sport, and the Number of his Fish.

The *First* then is this: If the Water be high, so as to rise almost to the Banks of the River, then fasten to your Line an artificial Fly, called the *Caterpillar-fly*; then take a large *yellow Gentle*, (the yellow
lower

lower the better) run the Hook through the Skin of him, and draw him up to the Tail of your *artificial Fly*: This being done, whip with it on the Surface of the Water; and if you are diligent and expert, you may assure yourself of good Sport.

The *Second* thing I have to observe, is; That if you angle where two Mill-streams are going at one and the same time, let it be in the Eddy between the two Streams: First make use of your Plummet; and if the Water be deep, you must angle within a Foot of the Bottom, and perhaps you will find but little Sport. But if it proves to be shallow, that is, about the Depth of two Foot, or not exceeding three, then bait your Hook with three large *Gentles*: Use a *Cork Float*, which ought not to be a Foot and a half from the Hook, and have a quick Eye to strike at the very first Bite; for if there be any large *Dace* in the Mill-pool, they will resort to the Eddy between the two Streams.

If every *Angler* did consider, that *Gentles* are not only the most universal, but also the most alluring Bait, they would always carry some of them with them. I have

taken *Trout* with *Gentles*, when every Kind of *Worm* has been refused, and *artificial Flies* rejected. I have taken all Sorts of Fresh-water or River Fish with them, *Pike* and *Salmon* excepted ; and I make no manner of Doubt but they would prove an acceptable Bait to them, could it be so contrived, as to fix them upon a Hook that could hold either *Salmon* or *Pike*.

G U D G E O N S,

ARE such a pleasant, sweet, and delicate Fish, that if they were not so common, they would be as valuable as a *Smelt*. They spawn in *March* or *April*, and are in Season most Part of the Year. In the *Summer* they delight in shallow Streams, whose Bottom is sandy and gravelly, and will bite freely all Day from an Hour after Sun-rise 'till within an Hour of Sun-set, whether it be gloomy, warm, or Sun-shine Weather ; but in *Autumn*, when the Weeds begin to rot, and grow sour, they retire into the deep Waters. The usual Way of Angling for them is, to take up the Sand or Gravel, and

and by that Means render the Water thick and foul, which will make them bite the faster, though they are free enough at any Time ; or else you may cast into the River dried Earth or Dust ; but if the Water be made thick with Rain, then they will not bite. They will take *Gentles*, or the *Cow-dung Worm* ; but the small *red Worm* is what pleases them best. If you can find a Bridge or Plank over a small River, chuse to angle underneath for *Gudgeon* ; for they love the Shade ; and are so far from being shy or wary, that you may not only appear in Sight, but if you drive them from their Place of Resort, they will immediately return. A single Hair Line, a fine taper Rod, a Float, and a small Hook, is what you must use, and your Bait must drag upon the Ground.

B L E A K,

Is a small, fat, pleasant Fish ; and is called, by some, *the Fresh-water Sprat* : It will rise, like the *Dace*, at a small *House-fly*, upon the Surface of the Water ;

or will take a *Gentle*, or *white Paste*, about a Foot and half under Water. The smallest Hooks are the properest for them; and a *Pater-noster Line*, that is, a single Hair Line with six or seven Hooks, each three or four Inches above the other, baited with *Gentles*, and *Caddice* well scoured: *Paste* or *Red Worm* is what is used in Eddies, to which Places they resort in the *Spring* Season. If you angle for them in the *Thames*, you may lay in deeper than in other Rivers: And it is observable, that in Rivers they continue sound and healthful all the *Summer*; but the *Thames Bleak* soon run mad, occasioned by a Worm which breeds in their Heads: It is a flat-jointed Worm, and sometimes so long, that, should I mention what I have seen, I should scarce meet with Credit.

E E L S

DELIGHT in still Waters with muddy Bottoms, and are in Season, or rather, in their Prime, in the *Winter*; but are difficult to be taken during the six cold Months,

Months, because they generally get into the Mud, or soft Earth, where they bed together, the better to enable them to endure the Severity of the *Winter*: They are also taken sometimes upon a Sand, or Gravel, but rarely.

There are several Baits by which *Eels* may be taken, and several Ways of taking them; but the usual Bait is a *Lob-worm*, *Minnow*, or smallest *Gudgeon*: Angle for them upon the *Grabble*, and be not too eager in striking; for they will suck the Bait for some Time; and, if you have Patience, it will be ten to one that they will hook themselves: They bite freest in or after a Shower of Rain.

E E L P O U T S,

ARE preferable to an *Eel*; their Places of Resort are the same with the *Eel*, but they are to be taken in Peals of Thunder, Lightning, and heavy Rain, which drives them from their Holes; and the properest Bait for them is a small *Gudgeon*: They are large, afford good Sport, and have an excellent Taste.

R U F F and P O P E

ARE the same Fish, with different Names: They are small, but choice and good; and though there is but little Meat upon them, yet it is very sweet. They delight in deep, still Holes; and when you have found out their Haunt, you may catch forty or fifty, sometimes double that Number, at a standing. They bite free and eager; and you may angle with two or three Hooks, and pull up as many of them at a time as you have Hooks to your Line. You may bait the Ground with fresh Earth, and immediately lay in your Line of a single Hair, and bait your Hooks with *Gentles* or *Red Worms*.

M I N N O W, or P E N K,

Is in Season from *March* to *Michaelmas*, except immediately after Spawning-time: It is usually full of Spawn, and breeds often, and is not inferior to any Fish,

Fish, for its Excellency of Taste. His Biting-time is from an Hour after Sunrise, and is taken at Mid-water, or near or close to the Bottom ; and the only Bait is the smallest *Red Worm*. Use a Float, and the same Hook which you used for the *Bleak*. After *Michaelmas* he betakes himself to the Mud-weeds, or Woody-places in Rivers, as a Preservative against Floods, and a Security against his becoming a Prey to other Fish.

*BULL-HEAD, or MILLER'S
THUMB,*

SPAWNS in *April* ; and its Vent is so full of Spawn, that they are swelled almost into the Form of a Dug. *Bull-heads* hide themselves in Holes, or among Stones in clear Water, and in very hot Days will lie a long time, sunning themselves, and are easily seen upon any flat Stone, or on the Gravel ; at which time the most unexpert *Angler* may take him with a small *Red Worm*.

L O A C H

Is a delicate Fish, and very wholsome, breeds and feeds in little and clear swift Brooks and Rills; lives upon the Gravel, and in the sharpest Streams; and his Growth is not above a Finger's Length, and his Thickness proportionable: He seldom rises above the Gravel, and is therefore to be angled for at the Bottom, with a little *Red Worm*.





A
T R E A T I S E

CONCERNING

Thames Fishing :

W I T H

*An Account of the Nature of such
RIVERS as empty themselves
into it, or are near unto it, &c.*



T is certain, that *Angling* in the *Thames*, affords much Pleasure and Pastime to such who cannot conveniently be absent from their Trades and Employments for the Space of one or more Days; and especially, if they take Delight in catching small Fish. The higher any Man

F 6

goes

goes up that River, I mean, for about forty Miles, the more Sport, and the greater Variety of Fish he will meet with, as I shall take Notice of presently ; and, in the mean time, shall mention the best Places for *Thames* Angling from *London Bridge* to *Chelsea*.

In treating of *Rock*, *Dace*, and *Bleak*, I have already shewn the Ground-bait is to be prepared ; what Bait is proper for the Hook ; and how the Bait is to be kept steady with Rip-hooks. There ought not to be more than three *Anglers* in one Boat, otherwise they will incommode each other ; and if they have no mind to prepare their own Ground-bait, their Waterman will furnish them with it, if they speak to him over Night. They may meet with these Sorts of Watermen at almost any Stairs between *Somerset House* and *London Bridge*, but not on the *Surry Side* ; and more particularly at *Essex Stairs* : Their usual Fare for Rowing and Attending upon them is Three-pence *per Hour*, besides what they are to have for the Ground-bait, for which an Agreement ought to be made before-hand, to avoid being imposed upon.

It will be to no manner of Purpose to angle in the *Thames*, if the Air be cold and raw, the Wind high, the Water rough, or if it be wet Weather: But when the Sky is serene and clear, the Air temperate, and the Water smooth, you then need not doubt of meeting with good Sport. The proper Hours for Angling, are from the time that the Tide be half Ebb'd, to within two Hours of High-water, provided that the Land-floods do not come down; for then the River will be foul and nasty, so that it will be lost Labour to angle 'till the Water becomes clear. Observe further, that you always pitch your Boat *under the Wind*; that is, if the Wind be at *South*, then keep on the *Surry* Shore; if at *North*, then on the *London* Side. If you have an expert Waterman, he will shew you the best Places where to pitch the Boat; but if you can get into a Lighter, it will be so much the better, because you will then have the longer Swim.

I know but one Place where a Man may stand on Shore, and angle, which is under the Wall that fronts *Fishmongers Hall*, near *London Bridge*: Here you
may

may angle from three-quarters Ebb, 'till the Tide has flow'd two Hours, (provided they are not *Spring Tides*): but then, though you may meet with abundance of Sport, you will catch *Bleak* only, except in the Summer-season, when you may take many *Smelts*. When the Tide obliges you to retire from this Stand, you may then angle over the Wall for some Hours; and you should use a *Pater-noster* Line, baiting every Hook with a single *Gentle*, and placing your Float at a Yard and a quarter Distance from the lowermost Hook. Observe also, that in angling between *London Bridge* and *Chelsea*, the two last Links of your Line be single Hairs.

The best Places for pitching a Boat to angle in the *Thames*, are about one hundred and fifty Yards from *York Stairs*, the *Savoy*, *Somerset Garden-wall*, *Dorset Stairs*, *Black Friars Stairs*, the *Dung Wharf* near *Water Lane*, *Trig Stairs*; and I should have mentioned *Essex Stairs*. On *Surry Side*, the *Falcon Stairs*, *Barge Houses*; *Cuper's*, vulgarly call'd *Cupid's Stairs*; the *Wind Mill*, and *Lambeth*. When you go to angle at *Chelsea*,

The Gentleman Angler. 111

Chelfsey, be sure that the Wind does not blow up or down that Part of the *Thames*, for then you will not meet with any Success ; and when you go thither on a calm, fair Day, and the Wind being in a right Corner, pitch your Boat almost opposite to the Church, and angle in six or seven Foot Water, where you will meet with Plenty of large and fat *Roach*.

*Mortlack Deep*s is the next Place where *Roach* principally resort when the Weeds are rotten : and here are good *Carp* very often, so that you must angle with a Line that has three Hairs at the Bottom, and your Rod must be proportionably strong.

From the Sides of the *Eights*, (which are small Islands) lying at a little Distance from, and mostly opposite to the Towns and Villages on the North-side of the *Thames*, as *Brentford*, *Isleworth*, and *Twickenham*, there is very good angling for *Roach*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, and *Perch* ; very often you will meet with *Trout*, and sometimes with *Carp*.

Teddington Banks are remarkable for Plenty of good *Gudgeon* ; *Kingston-wick* and *Kingston* are for *Barble*, *Roach*, and *Dace*. At

112 *The Gentleman Angler.*

At *Sunbury* there is good Angling for *Rock*, *Dace*, and *Gudgeons*; and from the *Eights*, for *Trout*, and large *Perch*.

Shipperton Pool abounds with large *Barbel* and *Dace*.

At *Chertsey Bridge* the Water is very deep, but affords most Sorts of Fish, except *Pike*, *Trout*, and *Carp*.

Laylam is also remarkable for most Sorts of white Fish.

Stanes and *Datchet* seldom yield any other than *Rock* and *Dace*.

At and about *Windfor* is vast Variety of all Sorts of Fish; but if a Man be found angling in another's Water, he is fined very high by the Court of that Town, even though he catches but a single *Gudgeon*, *Rock*, or *Dace*. The Fine (if my Memory does not fail me) is Five Pounds for every Fish, or Imprisonment. This was ordered, upon the Complaint of the Proprietors of several Parts of the River; by which the Inhabitants have been great Losers; many Gentlemen and others usually resorting thither for Air and Pastime. I have not ventured to go there, since I was informed of this Manner of Proceeding
against

against innocent *Anglers* ; and therefore I give them this Account, to caution them against the Penalty they must undergo, if taken there.

Having finished this Part, and taken my Leave of *Windsor*, I shall proceed to treat of such *Rivers* as empty themselves into the *Thames*, and of others which are are not far from it : And, first, Of *Ilford* in *Essex* :

Ilford River is fed by *Woodford River* : The upper Part of it abounds with *Rock* and *Dace*, and some *Perch* ; but between the Town of *Ilford* and the *Thames*, and especially about three Miles from the Town, there is *Pike*. The Soil, or Bottom is, for the most part, Gravel and Sand ; as is also

Woodford River : Here are Plenty of *Perch*, *Chub*, *Rock*, and *Dace* ; and the best Places for Angling are about a Mile above the Bridge, and two Miles below it.

Stratford River, whose Soil is Gravel in some Places, and Mud in others, gives the *Angler* good Diversion for *Rock*, *Dace*, *Chub*, and *Eels*.

Bow

Bow River is much of the Nature with *Stratford River*, and is stored with the same Sort of Fish : It is supply'd by that River which comes from *Waltham River*, commonly call'd *Hackney River*. The chief Places for Angling are about the Mills. When the Tide flows up the River, the *Angler* will find Diversiſion enough in catching large *Dace* ; provided he use an *artificial Fly*, with the Wings and Body all black.

Hackney River has a gravelly Bottom, and is fed by *Waltham River* : Here are Plenty of large *Barbel* and *Chub*, *Roch*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, *Eels*, and *Lampreys*. The Fish which it affords are as good as any other River can yield, if not better ; particularly the *Barbel*, *Eels*, and *Gudgeon*. You can scarce angle in any Part of the River, but what will furnish you with good Sport.

Waltham River is of the same Nature with *Hackney River*, but has an Advantage over it : For besides large *Barbel* and *Chub*, *Roch*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, and *Eels*, here are good Store of fine *Pike*, and some *Carp*.

New River has its Source from the *River Ware*, and runs at least sixty Miles before it reaches *London*: The Bottom is partly Gravel, and partly Clay; and it is well stored with *Rock*, *Dace*, *Chub*, large *Gudgeons*, and *Eels*. The principal Places for Angling near *London*, are *Winchmore Hill*, *Hornsey*, the Boarded River by *Awberry Farm*, *Newington*, *Camberry House*, and the Pond near *Sadler's Wells*: There is also good Angling at the upper Pond, near the *Bowling Green*, at the Back of *Islington*, for *Rock*, *Dace*, and *Perch*.

Brentford River is mostly Clay, or Mud; but yet there are some Places that are Gravelly. This was a good River formerly; but so much abused by *Poachers*, that it is scarce worth while to angle in it: Here are some *Rock*, *Dace*, and *Chub*.

Hownsflow River would be a good River, if it were not abused by *Poachers*, and had some Shelter, as Trees, Hedges &c. but it lies so very open, that the Fish, which are *Rock*, *Dace*, *Perch*, and *Pike*, (with good *Gudgeon*) are aware of the *Angler*, and shoot away before he

116 *The Gentleman Angler.*

he can lay in his Line. The Soil is a Gravel.

Coln River is supplied by *Uxbridge River*, and is a Gravel, for the most part ; it abounds with *Chub*, *Roch*, and *Dace* above the Town of *Colnbrook* : And between that Town and the *Thames* are Plenty of good and large *Perch* ; but they are very quick-sighted, and shy : However, if the *Angler* be wary, and conceals himself by the Assistance of the Trees, and keeps at some Distance from the Side of the River, he may lay in his Rod, and take good Store of *Perch*.

Uxbridge River is excellent for its vast Quantities of large and fat *Trouts* : The Bottom is a fine Gravel ; but then, the Water being leased out to many who have a Property in it, it is a difficult Matter to angle there, and not be discovered : For they hire Men, who watch continually to catch or prevent *Poachers*, and to secure *Anglers* who come there without Permission. If you go into any one of the Proprietor's Ground to angle, even by Consent, you are generally attended by one who keeps an Account how many Brace of *Trouts* you take, for which
you

The Gentleman Angler. 117

you must pay (to the best of my Remembrance, and the Information I have had since) the following Prices : For every Pound Weight of *Trouts*, from ten Inches (or thereabouts) in Length, to twelve Inches, Two Shillings ; for *Trouts* from twelve Inches to eighteen, Half a Crown *per* Pound ; and so, in Proportion, for those of a larger Size. They will scarce suffer any to be taken under eight Inches : And if you are favoured therein, you must pay, in some Places, One Shilling and Six Pence for every Pound Weight, and in some but One Shilling. I thought it proper to give this Notice to *Anglers*, lest they may be taken, and prosecuted as Trespassers.

These are the Rivers on the *North* Side of the *Thames*, which empty themselves into it, or are within a few Miles of it : I shall now proceed to the *South* Side.

Deptford River is very much decay'd ; and no *Angler*, that values his Time, will spend it in wetting a Line there. The Bottom is mostly a Gravel, and yet there are but few Fish in it, such as *Rock*, *Dace*, and *Flounders* ; and, by Chance,
you

118 *The Gentleman Angler.*

you may meet with a *Trout* ; but they are small, and do not relish very well : This River is fed by that which comes from *Lewisham*.

Lewisham River has its Water from *Bromley River* ; is partly Clay, but, for the most part, a Gravel at Bottom : Here are some good *Trouts*, large *Roch* and *Chub*, *Gudgeons*, and some *Perch*, and small *Dace*. The River runs on the Back-part of the Town ; and the best Place for *Trout* is a little above and below the *Mill* in the Foot-road from *Deptford* to *Lewisham Bridge*.

Wandsworth River is supply'd with Water which comes from *Martin* ; the Bottom is Gravel and Sand. This has been a famous River within these few Years, but is poached almost every Day ; the poorest Fellow almost in the Town keeps a Net, and goes out boldly at Noon-day : However, there is still good Diversion for very large *Gudgeon* and *Dace*, *Flounders*, *Perch*, *Pike*, some *Carp*, and *Trouts* ; and very large *Silver Eels* are often taken here. *Diggory Mead*, beyond the *Leather Bottle* , is noted for the best Place, where the largest *Trouts* keep

The Gentleman Angler. 119

keep mostly ; but the properest Times of the Year to meet with this Sort of Fish, are the Months of *February* and *March* : There are some also in the Summer-time ; but tho' they are scarce, yet their Size generally makes Amends for that. The best Places for Angling are in the *Mill Streams* and *Mill Pools* ; and *Wandsworth Creek*, which is, in a manner, dry at Low-water, yields very good Sport for *Dace*, at, before, and a little after High-water ; but then you must angle out of a Boat.

Martin River has a Gravel at Bottom, and the principal Fish are *Trouts* : It is fed by *Mitcham River*.

Mitcham River is supply'd by Water which comes from the River *Carshalton* ; the Soil is a Gravel, and the chief Fish *Trouts* : At the *Mill* is the best Place for Angling.

Carshalton River is gravelly, and it abounds with *Trouts*, and other white Fish : But then the Proprietors are very cautious of letting *Anglers* come there, and will prevent those who have not previously gained Permission.

Moulsey

Moulsey River, opposite to *Hampton Court*, has a Gravel at Bottom, and is fed by *Esher River*: Here are good *Perch*, *Jack*, *Rock*, *Dace*, *Chub*, *Gudgeon*, and some *Flounders*, and a few *Trouts*, besides *Barbel*.

Esher River is a good River for *Jacks*, *Perch*, *Chub*, *Rock*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, *Eels*, some *Flounders*, and *Trouts*; it is supplied by *Cobham River*: The Bottom is gravelly; and the chief Place for Angling is at the *Copper Mills*. There are also many other good Places in the River, where there are also *Barbel*.

Cobham River receives its Water out of *Sussex*, which runs many Miles under Ground: The Bottom is, for the most Part, a Gravel. At the *Mills* there is Plenty of good *Trouts*, fat and large, as also *Dace* and *Gudgeon*, and some *Jacks*. Above the Bridge there is good Sport for *Chub*, *Perch*, *Dace*, and *Jacks*; but the latter are not very large there.

Weybridge River is partly Gravel, and partly Mud; it is supplied by two other Rivers, *viz.* *Byfleet*, and the *New River*. It is very much frequented by *Anglers*; though I cannot say it is altogether so well
stored

stored with Plenty of Fish as many other Rivers: However, here is good Diverſion for *Carp*, ſome of which weigh eight or nine Pounds; *Jack*, *Roch*, *Dace*, *Flounders*, *Popes*, large *Bleak*, *Barbel*, and *Gudgeon*. The chief Parts for Angling are *Anglers Hall*, and oppoſite to it, near the Mouth of the River; the *Widow's Mead*, and *Counteſs's Mead*, the *Leap*; and in the *Field* near the Bridge, oppoſite to the Gardens of the Earl of *Portmore*.

Byfleet River is ſupply'd with Water which comes from *Guilford River*: There is not better or more Plenty of Fiſh in any River, than in this, *Trouts* excepted: Here you have very large *Pike* and *Jacks*, *Tench*, *Perch* of eighteen Inches in Length, good *Carp*, large *Flounders*, *Bream*, *Roch*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon* in Plenty, *Popes*, large *Chub*, and *Eels*. The Bottom is a curious Gravel for ſeveral Miles; and you can ſcarce *Angle* in any Part without taking Plenty of Fiſh of one Kind or another.

The *New River* is made by Art, from *Guilford* to *Weybridge*, ſo that Barges can paſs and repaſs to the *Thames*, by
G the

122 *The Gentleman Angler.*

the Help of *Locks*, as they are called. This River is gravelly at Bottom, and abounds with vast Quantities of excellent *Gudgeon* : Here are also a few *Jacks*, or young *Pike*, *Dace*, and some *Roach*. I have taken six Dozen of handsome *Roches* in the Space of three Hours : The best Places for Angling are under the *Bridges*, or at the *Locks*.





T H E
A N G L E R ' S S O N G .

To the Tune of, A Begging we will go.

O *F all the Sports and Pastimes
Which happen in the Year,
To Angling there are none, sure,
That ever can compare.
Then to Angle we will go,
will go, will go, &c.*

*We do not break our Legs or Arms,
As Huntsmen often do ;
For when that we are Angling,
No Danger can ensue.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

124 *The Gentleman Angler.*

*Cards and Dice are Courtly Games,
Then let them laugh who Win :
There's Innocence in Angling,
But Gaming is a Sin.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*In Westminster the Gentlemen
In Black their Conscience sell ;
But t'other Gentleman in Black
Will sure reward them well.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*A Client is a Gudgeon,
And freely takes the Bait ;
A Lawyer is a Jack, and
For him does slyly wait.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*He cares not what he says or does,
If he can Money get ;
He swears that All are Fish, which
Do come into his Net.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*The Cit trepans the Courtier,
And leads an easy Life ;
The Courtier, in Return, deludes
His Daughter, or his Wife.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

A Mas

The Gentleman Angler. 125

*A Masquerade and Play-house
Are Meeting-places made ;
Where Folks frequent, to carry on
The Basket-making Trade.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*The Milliners and Tea-shops
Have got an odious Name ;
You there may find Apartments
Where Lovers play their Game.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*Stock-jobbers cheat and couzen,
And Vintners sell bad Wine :
Fortune-hunters richly dress'd,
With borrow'd Lustre shine.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c.

*Physicians, with a Dash, send
Ten thousand to their Graves :
And Bailiffs, like Informers,
Are saucy, perjur'd Knaves.*

Then to Angle we will go, &c

*Then you who would be honest,
And to Old Age attain,
Forsake the City and the Town,
And fill the Angler's Train ;*

And to Angle we will go, &c.

126 *The Gentleman Angler.*

*We meddle not with State Affairs,
Or for Preferment push ;
Court-places and Court-pensions
We value not a Rush.*

Then to *Angle* we will go, &c.

*We harbour not Sedition
Or Faction in our Breast ;
The Treason and the Traitor
We equally detest.*

Then to *Angle* we will go, &c.

*Let others then turn Malecontents,
Whene'er their Princes frown :
Pox take such Loyalists, whom Bribes
Keep steady to the Crown.*

Then to *Angle* we will go, &c.

*For Health and for Diversion
We rise by Break of Day,
While Courtiers in their Down-beds
Sweat half their Time away.*

Then to *Angle* we will go, &c.

*And then unto the River
In Haste we do repair ;
All Day in sweet Amusement
We breathe good wholesome Air.*

Then to *Angle* we will go, &c.

Our

*Our Constitution sound is,
Our Appetites are keen ;
We laugh, and bid Defiance
To Vapours and the Spleen.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

*The Gout and Stone are often bred
By lolling in a Coach ;
But Anglers walk, and so remain
As sound as any Roch.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

*We spend our Time in Pleasure,
And fear no Drury Ills ;
So we have no Occasion
For Bolus, or for Pills.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

*The Trout, the Pike, the Salmon,
The Barbel, Carp, and Bream,
Afford good Sport ; and so the Perch
And Tench will do the same.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

*So let us now remember
To praise the smaller Fish ;
Flounders, Gudgeon, Roch, and Dace
Will garnish well a Dish.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

128 *The Gentleman Angler.*


*Through Meadows, by a River,
From Place to Place we roam ;
And when that we are weary,
We then go jogging Home.
Then to Angle we will go, &c.*

*At Night we take a Bottle,
We prattle, laugh, and sing ;
We drink a Health unto our Friends :
And so, God bless the King.
Then to Angle we will go,
will go, will go, &c.*





T H E
L A W S
O F
A N G L I N G.

“  F any Person uses any Net,
 “ or Engine, to destroy the
 “ Spawn or Fry of Fish; or
 “ takes *Salmons*, or *Trouts*,
 “ out of Season; or *Pikes* shorter than
 “ ten Inches, *Salmon* than sixteen, *Trouts*
 “ than eight, and *Barbel* than twelve;
 “ or if he uses any Engine to take
 “ Fish, other than Angle or Net, or a
 “ Tramel of two Inches and a half
 “ Mesh, shall forfeit twenty Shillings.

130 *The Gentleman Angler.*

“ for every Fish so taken, and the Net,
“ or Engine.” 1 *Eliz. c. 17.*

“ If any Person shall unlawfully break
“ down Fish-ponds, or shall fish there
“ without the Owner’s Licence, shall
“ suffer three Months Imprisonment,
“ shall be bound to his good Behaviour
“ for seven Years, and shall forfeit treble
“ Damages to the Party grieved ; but if
“ he makes acknowledgment of his Of-
“ fence in Sessions, and Satisfaction to
“ the Party, the Behaviour may be re-
“ leased.” *Stat. 5 Eliz. c. 11.*

“ Erectors of a Weire or Weires along
“ the Sea-shore, or in any Haven or
“ Creeek, or within five Miles of any
“ Haven or Creeek, and wilfully destroy-
“ ing the Spawn or Fry of Fish, forfeit
“ ten Pounds, to be levied by Distress,
“ &c. and to be divided between the
“ Poor and the Prosecutor.” 3 *Jac. 1.*
c. 12.

“ Fishers in any Haven or Creeek, or
“ within five Miles of them, with any
“ Net of a less Mesh than three Inches
“ and a half between Knot and Knot,
“ (except for Smoulds in *Norfolk* only)
“ or with a Canvass Net, or other En-
“ gine,

“ gine, whereby the Spawn or Fry of
“ Fish may be destroyed, shall forfeit
“ such Net or Engine, and also ten Shil-
“ lings, to be levied, and divided,” &c.
ut supra.

“ Every Person who, between the first
“ Day of *March*, and the last of *May*,
“ shall do any *Act* whereby the Spawn
“ of Fish shall be destroyed, shall forfeit
“ the Instruments, and likewise forty
“ Shillings; one Moiety to the Poor,
“ the other to the Prosecutor.” *Stat.*
3 *Car. 2. cap. 9.*

“ Whoever fishes in the River *Severn*
“ with, or shall make use of, any En-
“ gine, or Device, whereby any *Salmon*,
“ *Trout*, or *Barbel*, under the Length
“ appointed by 1 *Eliz. c. 17.* shall be
“ taken or killed, or shall fish with any
“ Net for *Salmon*, *Peale*, *Pike*, *Carp*,
“ *Trout*, *Barbel*, *Chub*, or *Grayling*,
“ the Mesh whereof shall be under two
“ Inches and a half Square from Knot
“ to Knot, or above twenty Yards in
“ Length, and two in Breadth, or
“ above fifty in Length, and six in
“ Breadth in the Wing of the Net, in
“ the said River, from *Ripplelock Stake*

132 *The Gentleman Angler.*

“ to Gloucester Bridge, or above sixty in
“ Length, below Gloucester Bridge, and
“ six Yards in Breadth in the Wing of
“ the Net, or shall fish with more than
“ one of these Nets at once, or shall
“ use any Device for taking the Fry
“ of Eels, shall forfeit five Shillings for
“ every Offence, and the Fish so taken,
“ and the Instruments. To be divided,
“ *ut supra. Ibidem.*

“ Persons taking Fish by any Device,
“ in any several Water or River, or
“ assisting therein, without the Owner's
“ Consent, shall make such Recompence,
“ and within such Time, as the
“ Justice of Peace shall appoint, not
“ exceeding treble Damages, and such
“ Sum to the Overseers of the Poor as
“ he shall also appoint, not exceeding
“ ten Shillings; the Conviction is by
“ Consent of the Party, or Oath of
“ one Witness; the Prosecution to be
“ in one Month. In Default of Payment,
“ to be levied by Distress, and
“ Sale; and for want of Distress, the
“ Offender to be committed to the
“ House of Correction, for any Time
“ not exceeding one Month, unless he
“ gives

“ gives Bond, with one or more Sure-
“ ties, to the Party injured, not to
“ offend again.” *Stat. 22 and 23 Car. 2.*
c. 25.

“ If any Person shall keep any Net,
“ Angle, Leap, Piche, or other Engine
“ for taking Fish, (except the Makers
“ or Sellers of them, or the Owners or
“ or Occupiers of Rivers or Fisheries)
“ such Engines, if they shall be found
“ fishing without the Consent of the
“ Owner or Occupier, or by such other
“ Person or Persons as he shall authorize
“ and appoint; and any Person, by a
“ Warrant under the Hand and Seal
“ of a Justice of Peace, may search the
“ Houses of Persons prohibited and
“ suspected, and seize to their own Use,
“ or destroy such Engines.” 4 and
5 *W. and M. c. 23.*

“ No Servant shall be questioned for
“ killing a Trespasser, within his Ma-
“ ster's Liberty, who will not yield, if
“ not done out of former Malice: Yet
“ if the Trespasser kills any such Servant,
“ it is Murder.” 21 *E. 1.*

“ To take Fish in a River, is not
“ Felony; but to take Fish out of a Net,
“ Trunk

134 *The Gentleman Angler.*

“ Trunk, or Pond, is Felony, because
“ they are not at their natural Liberty.”
Hale, Pl. Cr. p. 68. Stant. Pl. Cr. 25. b.
Cram. Jurisd. 167. a.

N. B. *These Acts shall not abridge
Fishermen, and their Servants, law-
fully authorized, to fish in Navi-
gable Rivers with lawful Nets.*





The Form of a L I C E N C E,
and *Deputation*, granted by a
Lord of a *Manor*, and Owner
of a F I S H E R Y, to One to
Fish within the same ; and also
to Seize, &c.



O all Christian People to whom
these Presents shall come ; I
Thomas Long of New River
in the County of Cumberland,
Esq; Lord of the Manor of Salthey in the
said County, and of the Royalty or Liberty
of free Fishing in the River Sore within
the said Manor, send Greeting. K N O W
Y E, That I the said Thomas Long,
for divers good Causes and Considerations
me thereunto moving, have given and
granted, and, by these Presents, do give and
grant unto my trusty and well-beloved
Friend George Hughs (and his Assigns)
full

136 *The Gentleman Angler.*

full Power, absolute Authority, free Liberty, and Licence to fish, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, at the Will and Pleasure of him the said George Hughs (and his Assigns) for and during the Term of five Years from the Date hereof, within the said River of Sore, in as free, full, large, ample, and beneficial Manner, as I myself may or can do in any Respect whatsoever, and to take and carry away such Fish or Fishes as he shall take by Angling, Fishing, or otherwise, without any manner of Denial, Lett, Hindrance, Molestation, Interruption, or Disturbance of me the said Thomas Long, or by or through any Act or Acts done, or which may or shall be done by me the said Thomas Long, or by my Means, Consent, Privity, or Procurement, or of or by my Heirs, Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, or of or by any Person or Persons lawfully claiming, or which hereafter shall or may claim of, from, by, or under me, or them, or any of them, during the Term aforesaid. IN WITNESS whereof, &c. [Here a Licence ends : But if a Deputation be also granted, and Authority to Seize, &c. it must continue as followeth ;
that

that is to say, after the word *aforesaid* :]
AND MORE OVER, *I the said Thomas Long do hereby, for me, my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, covenant, promise, grant, and agree to and with the said George Hughs, (and his Assigns) That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said George Hughs, (and his Assigns) and I do hereby authorize the said George Hughs (and his Assigns) from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, during the said Term of five Years, (as often as Occasion shall require) to seize and take, as prohibited to be kept by Persons unqualified by Law, as well all and every the Fishing Nets, Angles, Angle Rods, Leaps, Piches, or other Instruments or Engines used for destruction or killing of Fish, of any Person or Persons whatsoever, that shall, at any Time or Times hereafter, be found Fishing or Angling within the said River of Sore, without any Licence or Consent of the said George Hughs first had or obtained for the doing thereof; and all and every such Fishing Nets, Angles, Angle Rods, Leaps, Piches, or other Instruments or Engines, as aforesaid, so seized and taken, to detain and*
keep

138 *The Gentleman Angler.*

keep to his or their own Use or Uses, or otherwise to destroy. IN WITNESS whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, this Fourth Day of September, in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Dom. 1726.

Thomas Long. ©

N. B. Every Licence and Deputation must have a treble Six-peny Stamp upon it; otherwise it will be void in Law, and of no Effect.



APPENDIX;

CONTAINING

- I. The METHOD of ROCK FISHING, and SEA FISHING; the *Baits* that are used, and the several Sorts of FISH that are taken by Sportsmen that Way.
- II. An Explanation of TECHNICAL WORDS, and PHRASES, used by *Fair Anglers*; Alphabetically digested.
- III. Choice and Excellent RECEIPTS, for Dressing FISH, after the best and most fashionable Manner.
- IV. How to Improve *poor* or *barren* GROUND, by turning it into *Fish Ponds*.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year M.DCC.XXXVI.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTEN LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

500 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK, N. Y.

1897

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTEN LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

500 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK, N. Y.

1897



APPENDIX.

Of ROCK and SEA FISHING.



ROCK FISHING has a double Advantage, which *Angling* cannot pretend to; it is much pleasanter, and more healthful. In *Angling*, a Man is expos'd all Day to the scorching Heat of the Sun, which blunts the Edge of his Diversion, and too often lays a Foundation for a Fever: Whereas in *Rock-fishing*, Nature seems to have made a Provision against this Accident; so that while the

the Sun is running its Course, and happens to shine upon you, you may with Ease shift your Station, and be defended from the Inclemency of its Over-heat, by sitting under a Rock, which serves as a Canopy, Besides, you have the Advantage of the circumambient Air of both Land and Sea ; and as there is not any marshy or boggy Ground near the Rocks, so you are not in Danger of feeling the unhappy Effects of the Fumes, Vapours and Exhalations that arise from thence ; and the Air of the Salt-water is reckoned to be more salubrious than that of Rivers. To this may be added, that it creates an Appetite : And what can be more conducive to Health, than to eat and drink moderately in a cool Shade, when the Sun is at the Meridian ?

This Kind of Diversion, which is not to be followed but during the *Summer* Season, is practised chiefly in the *South* and *South-west* Parts of *England*, and in some Places in *Ireland* ; and in this last-mentioned Country, the Rocks of *Dunlery*, which are eight or ten Miles in Length, and the nearest Part about five Miles Eastward of the City of *Dublin*,
are

are remarkable for this Way of Fishing ; and you are sure of meeting Variety of Company.

A different Method must be used here, from what is the general Practice of *Angling* : For in your Fresh-water Rivers you are obliged to angle with a very fine Line ; but in *Rock-fishing* your Line ought to have at least five or six Hairs in every Link. A Float is necessary, and two Hooks ; one to reach the Bottom, and the other to keep in Mid-water ; and the best Time to follow this Sport, is when the Tide is half spent, and to be continued 'till within two Hours of High-water : The Morning and Evening are the most preferable Parts of the Day, provided that the Tide shall then happen to favour your Design.

The *Baits* which are used generally in *Rock-fishing*, are the *Cockle*, the *Lob*, and the *Marsh-worms* ; but there is another Sort, called the *Hairy-worm*, which is preferable to all the rest, and is so universally beloved by all the Fish, that you need use no other. *Hairy-worms*, if full grown, are near four Inches long ; they are flat and broad, and resemble

resemble an *Earwig*, and are to be found on the Sea-shore, when the Salt-water has left it, especially if the Shore be partly Sand, and partly Mud. They are to be dug out with a Spade, as you would dig for *Earth-worms*; and when you have washed them from their Filth and Dirt, which must be done in Salt-water, and not in fresh, they will appear to be of a fine, pale Flesh-colour. They are to be placed upon the Hook with their Heads foremost, leaving about an Inch to play in the Water.

* There is one little Inconveniency attending *Rock-fishing*, of which it will be necessary to caution the unwary Reader; That he must not be surprized if he sometimes finds his Hook to be fastened under Water; and then, if he cannot get it loose in two or three Offers, he has nothing to do but to wait with Patience, or take off his Line from the Rod, and make fast the Top of it, so that it may not be drawn into the Water. It often comes to pass that it will be loosened in half a quarter of an Hour, and sometimes not 'till the Tide ebbs almost as low as the Place where it is fastened.

This

This Accident is occasioned by an ill-favoured little Fish, called a *Cobler*, or *Miller's Thumb*, which, as soon as he has sucked in the Bait, retires into the Cleft or Cranny of the Rock, and turning him about, renders it impossible to disengage him, 'till he has a mind to come out himself, or 'till the sinking of the Water compels him to it.

This *Cobler* or *Miller's Thumb* seldom exceeds four Inches in Length; he has a large Head, large Eyes, wide Mouth, and two large Fins close by his Gills; the upper Part of his Body is thick, and descends taperwise to his Tail. There is but little Meat upon him, which is reckon'd unwholsome; and therefore, for the Trick he plays, and being a Fish disliked by every Body, his Fate generally is, to have a small Stick thrust through his Eyes, and then to be cast into the Sea, where he swims 'till he dies.

He, who designs to divert himself with *Rock-fishing*, ought to have a strong Rod jointed, which he may shorten upon occasion, or keep it at its full Length, the better to command his Line, when he has hooked a Fish, or when the Tide

H increases,

increases, or decreases; and the Line must be strong, the better to endure pulling, when it shall happen to be fastened to the Sea-weeds, which are generally tough; and the best way to disengage from thence, is to use the Lead-ring and small Cord, as shewn in *Angling*, and then working it backwards and forwards 'till it gets clear of the Weeds.

The same Advice is also to be followed here, which was given in the Beginning of the Book, concerning the *Angler's Apparatus*, or Fish-tackle; namely, to be provided with a sufficient Stock of every thing that is requisite and necessary, as *Silk, Hooks, Lines Wax, &c.* lest by Mischance he may happen to break a Line or Hook, and, for want of an immediate Supply, be deprived of his future Sport for that Day.

Nor must a *Landing-net* be forgotten, which is absolutely necessary when the Tide is low, or when you stand upon a Rock too high above the Water, that you may thereby land your Fish, without running the Hazard of breaking your Line in weighing him; and lest
your

your Landing-net may at any time be damaged, and thereby render'd uselefs, you ought also to be equipped with a Landing-hook, to supply its Place, and prevent the Loss of a good Fish, which is to be hooked under the Gills, that, when he gives a Spring as you take him out of the Water, he may not break his Hold, or your Line, (according to the Directions before given in *Angling*).

There are but four Sorts of Fish which are generally taken by *Rock-fishing*, namely, *Sea Bream*, *Flounders*, *Whiting Pollock*, and *Rock Whiting*.

Of S E A B R E A M.

S E A B R E A M S are not so broad and flat, nor altogether so large as *River Bream*, when full grown : They seldom exceed twelve or fourteen Inches at most ; they are fuller-bodied, more plump and thick, inclinable to be round ; their Colour is generally a pale Red, which turns to a deeper Red when they are dress'd. The usual Way of Dressing them, is to boil them ; though they eat well either fried or broiled ; and fresh Butter, with

148 *The Gentleman Angler.*

an Anchovy, or Mushrooms, is the Sauce. *Sea Breems* are well-tasted, but full of Bones ; and this may be the Reason why some People account them a coarse Fish. They afford good Diversion in the Water, and the larger Sort will try the Skill and Judgment of the Fisherman : They are not proper to be eaten by those who have a weak Stomach ; for though they are nourishing and strengthening, yet they are not easily digested.

Of FLOUNDERS.

THERE is very little, if any Distinction between the *River Flounders*, and those taken in the Salt-water ; and though the former come originally from the Sea, yet, by continuing in Fresh-water, they become firmer, and better-tasted, than those which are taken in the Salt-water. This may be easily proved, by *Flounders* exposed to Sale on Market-days at *Billingsgate*, which are caught beyond the *Buoy-in-the-Nore*, and those taken in the *Thames* above Bridge, or those rather that are caught in the Rivers which run into the *Thames*. The Salt-water

water Flounders are much larger than those of the *Fresh-water*, and are esteemed by some to be equally as good ; and I am apt to think it would puzzle the nicest Palate, to distinguish the one from the other ; and if any Man makes a right Distinction, it may very well be said to be more by Chance, than any thing else. As all that Fish, if large, draw a great deal of Water, so the *Salt-water Flounders* will afford good Sport.

Of WHITING POLLOCK.

THIS Sort of Fish is rather round in the Body, than of any other Shape ; it is well-tasted, nourishing, and fleaky as *Cod*. It seldom exceeds twelve Inches in Length, and in Colour is a darkish Grey. It struggles hard when hooked ; and, by making a long Defence for its Life, makes also much Diversion for the Fisherman. Boiling is the proper Way of Dressing it ; and it requires the same Sauce which is used for *Cod*.

OF ROCK WHITING.

THIS Fish is a Species of the *Whiting* and *Whiting-pollock*, but differs from both, and yet is often palmed upon the Ignorant for true *Whiting*. It is not altogether of such a dark Grey as the *Whiting-pollock*, nor so bright in Colour as the *Whiting*. Its chief Place of Residence is among the Rocks, from whence it takes part of its Name; it affords good Nourishment, is easy of Digestion, and agrees with weak Stomachs. It makes but an indifferent Defence for its Life, and consequently not much Diversion for the Fisherman. It is well-tasted; and as to its Size, is much the same with the *Whiting*.

These are the different Sorts of Fish which are generally taken at *Rock-fishing*; though it often happens, and I have frequently seen *Crabs*, as large as those which are sold commonly at the *Fish-mongers* in *London* for Eight-pence or Nine-pence apiece, taken the same Way. But they who divert themselves with catching *Crabs*, should bait their Hooks with

The Gentleman Angler. 151

with *Chicken-guts*, or with the Guts of Fish; and then again they must observe, that when they bring a *Crab* near the Surface of the Water, to have their Landing-net ready; or to weigh him, or take him on Shore with all the Expedition imaginable, otherwise he will quit his Hold, and drop down almost as soon as he perceives he is out of the Water.

OF SEA FISHING.

THE Manner of *Sea-fishing*, as used by Gentlemen for Recreation and Pastime, is when they are upon the Sea, either in a Boat, or Wherry, or else in a Ship.

When in a Boat, or Wherry, they seldom fish for, or catch any other than *Whiting* and *Haddock*; the former of these is most frequently taken, the latter coming by meer Accident.

OF WHITING.

WHITINGS are such innocent Food, and so well known, that it would be lost Time to give a Description of them, or

their Virtues. If you have a Mind to divert yourself with this kind of Fishing, you must first know where to find the Place where *Whitings* resort, and the surest Method I can lay down, which I may venture to affirm is without Exception, is this: When you have put off from the Shore, observe diligently, and look out for the *Sea Gulls*; and when you perceive where they hover, and especially when they fly down, and seem to dip themselves in the Water, you may from thence conclude that a *Scale* of *Whitings* are there. For as in the *Summer-time* they keep as near the Surface of the Sea as possible, the *Gulls* fly down and wound them with their Bills; and when they are either dead, or disabled from making their Escape, the *Gulls* then feed upon them.

Having discover'd where the *Whitings* are, you must cast Anchor there, and prepare your *Fish-tackle*: You will not have Occasion to use a Rod, which is here altogether useless. You must fasten one End of your Line to the Inside of the Boat, which must be a *Pater-noster* Line, with half a Dozen Hooks, each
half

half a Yard distant from the other ; and having baited them with *Hairy-worms*, (which are the most enticing Baits of any, if you can get them ; if not, you must use the *Lob*, or the *Marsh-worms*) then cast it into the *Sea*. You need not wait long before you draw it up ; neither have you any Occasion to hold it in your Hand, to know when the Fish bite : For as *Whitings* are a very greedy Fish, they will quickly gorge the Bait, and by that Means make themselves fast to your Hooks. Thus you may divert yourself, 'till you are, in a manner, tired with your Sport : And I have been in Company with some Gentlemen at this Diversion, when, upon counting the Numbers, we have taken in an Afternoon, mine amounted to Twenty-four Dozen. This perhaps may seem incredible to some ; but they who are acquainted with this Method of Fishing, can affirm the Probability of what I have asserted ; for I have known much larger Numbers taken in the same Space of Time. Nor is it at all unlikely, if we consider how voracious *Whitings* are, and if the true Method be pursued in Fishing for

H 5.

them :

them: For as soon as you have taken one *Whiting* from the Hook, you put on a fresh Bait, and drop it into the Sea; so that it is Ten to One, if one Hook or another has not a *Whiting* hung to it, though you draw up ever so fast.

Of H A D D O C K.

IN Shape and Colour the *Haddock* resembles a *Cod*, more than any other Fish, when full grown. It is well-tasted, fleaky, and affords good Nourishment; but yet is reckoned a coarse Fish.

If we may give Credit to the *Monkish* Legends, this is the Fish out of whose Mouth the Apostle took, at his Master's Command, the *Roman* Penny, which was paid as Tribute for them both. It has two black Spots under the Gills; which, the Monks say, is the Mark of the Apostle's Finger and Thumb; and some give out, that from this Tale arose the *English* Proverb, *He has it at his Fingers End.*

The small Sort of *Haddocks* are often sold for large *Whitings*, and the middle Size for young *Cods*.

When you fish for them, your Line must be deep in the Water, and your Hook baited with two or three *Lob-worms*: Your Tackle must be strong; for they struggle hard, and are not easy to be overcome, especially if they have arrived to a tolerable Growth.

As to the other Part of *Sea Fishing*, it is in a Ship when under Sail; your Line ought to be sixty Fathom in Length, a large Hook affixed to it, and a Piece of Lead sufficient to keep it as deep under Water as possible; and your Line is to be made of Hemp, and fastened to the Gamel of the Ship.

Cod, *Maycril*, and large *Haddock* are the Fish usually taken this Way, and sometimes *Ling*: The Bait for them, except for the *Maycril*, is a Piece of raw Beef; and it is scarce possible to feel either of them bite, even though you hold the Line in your Hand, by reason of the continual Motion of the Ship, especially if she makes any

H 6

Way.

156 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Way. I shall at present treat only of the *Maycril*.

Of M A Y C R I L.

A M A Y C R I L is a Fish so well known, that it needs not any Description ; and it is in vain to fish for them, except when the Ship *lies by*, or is becalmed. A Piece of scarlet Cloth hung upon a Hook, is the first Bait that is used, and which never fails of answering the Intent it was designed for. From hence arose this common Saying, *A Scarlet Coat is a MAYCRIL BAIT for the Ladies.*

When you have taken a *Maycril*, cut a thin Piece off from the Tail, a little above the Fin, and place it upon your Hook, and you need not fear taking many of them. Thus one or two will serve for Baits, 'till you are tired with the Sport. One *Maycril*, if dressed as soon as it is taken, will be preferable to a Dozen that are brought to Shore ; for as it is a rich Fish in its Nature, it is the sooner subject to decay, and lose its Relish. The common Method of Dressing them on Ship-board, is to split them, and broil

broil them on the Coals, and to put some Butter to them. They who have never tasted them dressed after this Manner, can scarce conceive what a delicious Flavour they have ; and there is as much Difference between one that is dressed immediately, and one dressed as soon as brought on Shore, as between the latter, and one that is sold in *London*. A *Maycril* that is bleeding fresh, requires not any Gooseberries, or rich Sauce, to set it off ; nothing being more palatable and pleasant.

As Gentlemen and Ladies, who live near the Sea-side, frequently divert themselves, during the *Summer* Season, in catching *Shrimps* and *Prawns* ; it may not be improper (though not very congruous to the Title of this Book) to give Instructions to those who may have an Inclination to spend an Hour or two in this kind of Pastime.

The Time of the Tide must be punctually observed ; that is, they who intend to divert themselves in taking *Shrimps* and *Prawns*, must be at the Sea-shore, ready to go upon the Rocks as soon as the Tide begins to leave them. A Net
must

158 *The Gentleman Angler.*

must be provided in the Shape of a *Cabbage-net*, but deeper, and the Meshes smaller; this is to be fasten'd to a Bow with a Handle, the same in Shape and Size with a *Tennis-ball Racket*.

This being provided, observe the Holes or Hollows between the Rocks, and especially those in which there are many Sea-weeds, for under them the *Shrimps* and *Prawns* take Shelter. All that you have to do, is, to thrust your Net as close to the Side of the Rock, under a Part of those Weeds; then take it up, and turn out what you have taken into a Pail, or little Tub: Proceed thus from one Part of the Hole to another, 'till you think you have taken what was in it, and fail not to try the same Places twice or thrice; for the Fish, when disturb'd, will shift their Station. I have taken sometimes Five, and at other times Eight Hundred, in an Hour's time, by this Method.



*An Explanation of Technical Words
and Phrases, used by the Fair
Angler ; digested in an Alpha-
betical Order.*

A.



APPARATUS : In this Word is included, in general, all the Fish-tackle, of what Kind or Nature soever, which the *Angler* shall at any time make Use of ; as *Wax, Silk, Hooks, Plummetts, Lines, Rods, &c.*

B.

A BAWK, is a Knot in a Hair or Link of a Line, and is often occasion'd by the Twisting of an Eel ; which, if not rectify'd in Time, will cause the Hair or Link to break in that Place.

To

To BED : Hairs are said so *Bed*, or to be well *Bedded*, when they twist kindly, so that the Link is equally round in every Part ; which cannot be effected if there be a flat Hair among them.

BEDDING : This is a Term given to the Substance, whether *Silk*, *Wooll*, &c. of which the Body of an *Artificial Fly* is composed.

BEARD : The *Beard*, is that Part of the Hook which is a little above the Point in the Bending of it : If it be too short or blunt, the *Angler* will not catch any Fish ; for the *Beard* is the chief Part of the Hook which holds fast the Fish.

A BLIND, is a Part of a Ditch, Hedge, or Row of small Shoots, or any thing else, a little more than Knee-high, at the Edge of the Water, to prevent the *Angler* from being discerned by the Fish. If one that is natural cannot be found, an artificial one must be made.

A BRACE, *i. e.* Two ; as a *Brace* of *Carp*, *Trout*, &c.

A BREAK, is a Knot in a Joint, designed for an *Angle Rod*, which must be cut close, and rasped 'till it is smooth
and

and level with the other Part of the Joint.

C.

To CHINE; as, to *chine* a *Salmon*, a Term used to cut up a *Salmon*, and no other Fish.

To COCK : A Float is said to *cock* well, when it is so equally balanc'd by the Lead, a little above the Hook, that it swims upright in the Water, which is the Position it should be in.

D.

To DAB, is, when you have placed a live Fly upon your Hook, to shake it over what Part of the River you think fit, and let it fall gently on the Surface of the Water ; and this kind of Exercise is call'd *Dabbing*.

A DRAG, is a Piece of Iron resembling four Hooks, placed Back to Back ; the Shank is four Inches long, and a Hole at the upper Part of it, to which a long Hempen Line is fastened. The *fair Angler* makes no other Use of this,

this, than to save his Line ; as when a Bough, Knot of Grass, or any other Thing swims down and bears against his Line, which he apprehends may break it ; he then casts his *Drag*, and draws it out ; or else, if his Line breaks, or slips from the Top of his Rod, he throws in his *Drag*, to pull it out gently.

To DRESS, is a Term used by an *Angler* in an Artificial Fly ; as when he cuts off any of the *Silk*, *Wooll*, &c. that stares out of the Body ; and when he also cuts off the superfluous Ends of the Wings, when they are too long, &c.

A DRIFT: This is a Term given to *Anglers* and *Fishermen*, when four or more are in Company together, and then they are call'd a *Drift*.

To DUB, is a *Technical* Word to make an *artificial Fly*.

E.

To EASE, is when the Angle-rod rests upon the *Fork*, the Angler pushes it gently forward ; and this is to be done when a *Carp*, or any other Fish is at the Bait,

The Gentleman Angler. 163

Bait, which nibbles awhile before he takes the Bait into his Mouth; and that he may not be checked, the Angler *Eases* off his Line.

EYES, are small Pieces of *Brass-wire* placed in a direct Line from one End of the Rod to the other, to guide the Line, and keep it from twisting, which comes from the *Wince* or *Wheel*; and this Method is used in angling for any large or strong Fish, which require to be humoured, as *Salmon, Barbel, Carp, Trout, &c.*

F.

FAIR: This is an Epithet given to *Anglers*, in Opposition to *Poachers*; the former making Angling his Diversion, and the latter his Profit, not caring what indirect Methods he uses to catch Fish.

To FIN, is a Term of Art, and signifies to *carve* or *cut up* a *Chub* or *Chevin*.

A FLAW, is a gouty Part in a Hair, bigger than any other Part; which being rotten, will make the Hair break in that Place.

A FLOAT,

A FLOAT, is a Piece of Cork cut in the Shape of an Egg, but more pointed at the mall End ; it has a small Hole in it from Top to Bottom, through which the Line passes, into which a Piece of Stick or of a Quill is put, to keep the Line steady. There is also another made of a Quill, which is most frequently used ; and the Design of a Float, is to give you Notice when a Fish *bites*, which you will know by the *Float* being drawn under Water.

A FORK. *Vide* REST.

FRUSHED, is a Term used for a *Chub* or *Chevin* when it is dressed ; as to *Frush*, i. e. to *Dress*.

G.

To GOBBET ; as, To *Gobbet* a Trout, i. e. *To cut it up*.

To GORGE, i. e. *to Swallow* ; as, The Fish has *gorged* the Hook.

GRABBLE : To lie upon the *Grabble*, is when a running Bullet, or flat Piece of Lead, keeps the Line firm on the Bottom of the River ; so that the Link, to which
the

the Hook is fasten'd, may play about with the Current of the Water.

H.

TO HALTER : This Term is used by the *fair Angler*, in no other Sense, than to secure and keep alive *Pike, Carp*, or any Fish in the River, which is performed after this Manner : The *Angler* takes a Piece of a Hempen-line of what Length he thinks fit, and putting one End of it twice through the Gills of the Fish, but not through the Mouth, he fastens it, and ties the other End to a Stick on the Shore, or to the Bough of a Tree, or to long Grass ; and casting the Fish into the Water, leaves it there to swim about, and feed as far as the Length of the Line will permit.

TO HANG : An *Angler* is said to *Hang* a Fish, when he has fasten'd his Hook in him.

HARBOUR : The *Harbour* of any Fish, is the Weeds, or the Stumps of Trees, to which he retires either to gorge or *pouch* his Food or Prey, or to shelter him from the Heat of the Weather, or to keep

166 *The Gentleman Angler.*

keep him warm from the Inclemency of the *Winter*.

HILL: To go to *Hill*, is a Phrase used by *Anglers*, when *Carp*, *Roch*, or *Dace* leave the great Rivers, and go into the little ones to *spawn*.

HOLD: A Fish is said to break his *Hold*, when he gets clear from the Hook.

HOLE, is a deep Water where Fish frequent; and when an *Angler* has made such a Discovery, he is said to have found a good *Hole*.

J.

JACKS, an Appellation given to small *Pike*, 'till they have attained to the Length of 24 Inches.

K.

To KINK, is a Term used in *Trowling*, when the Line is twisted between the Top of the Rod and the Ring, through which it ought to run freely; or else, when Part of the Line twists about the other Part that is *quoiled* in
your

your Left Hand. *Silk Lines* are very apt to *Kink*.

L.

TO LEAP: A Fish is said to *Leap*, when he springs out of the Water, either through Wantonness, or for any other Cause; and this is almost peculiar to *Trout* and *Salmon*.

A LEAP, is a Fall of Water from any Eminence, or Place of smaller Height, which several Fish endeavour to surmount, in order to go to spawn. If on the other Side the *Leap*, a *Wire* or *Baskets*, or *Hurdles* are placed, to receive the Fish, and prevent them from escaping; and as this is generally done to catch *Salmon*, it is then call'd a *Salmon-leap*.

A LEASH, i. e. *Three*; as a *Leash* of *Jacks*, *Pike*, *Trout*, &c.

LINK: A *Link* is more or less Hairs twisted together; and a *Line* is made of several Links fasten'd to each other with a *Fisherman's Knot*.

LOOPS, are Pieces of Leather, of different Sizes, sewed together, and put over

over all the Joints of the Rod, when it is disjointed, to keep them tight and close.

P.

PASTE, is the Pith of a Roll kneaded in the Hand, until it comes to be as tough as Dough : Sometimes *Vermilion*, *Honey*, &c. is mix'd with it ; and at certain Seasons this serves for a Bait, (being placed upon the Hook according to Art) for certain Fish, as *Carp*, &c.

PLAY : To *play* a Fish, is an *Angler's* Phrase for humouring him according to his Nature, by permitting him to swim which Way he will ; or, when you have obliged him to return, to let him go a different Way, if he pleases : It is in *Playing* a Fish, and not letting him Escape, that the *Angler's* Sport consists, and his Skill and Judgment is shewn.

To PLUMB, is to fathom the Water, to know the Depth thereof, and the Evenness of the Bottom : This is done with a small Piece of thin Lead rolled about the Hook, which is called a PLUMMET.

To

TO POUCH, is a Term peculiar to *Jacks* and *Pikes*, when they swallow their *Prey*.

TO PRIME: Any Fish that leaps out of the Water, is said to *prime*, except *Trout* and *Salmon*.

Q.

TO QUOIL, is a Term used in *Trouling*, and signifies, to gather up the Line with the Thumb and the two next Fingers, in small Rings of an equal Size.

R.

A REST, is a forked Piece of Stick with the forked End standing upright, and the other End fasten'd upon the Ground. It is call'd a *Rest*, because one Part of the *Angler's* Rod lies upon it.

TO RISE: Any Fish is said to *Rise*, when he endeavours to take a real or an artificial Fly on the Surface of the Water.

TO RUN: This is properly applied to a *Jack* or *Pike* in *Trouling*, who,
I when

170 *The Gentleman Angler.*

when he has seized the Bait, *runs* to his *Harbour* to *pouch* it; after which, he *runs* again, and the *Angler* is to *Strike* him.

S.

SAUCED; as, The *Tench* is well *sauced*: A Phrase used by *Anglers*, and signifies *well-dressed*: It is peculiar to a *Tench*.

A SCALE: Any great Number of Fish in the Water, which cannot be easily numbered, is called a *Scale*.

To **SCOUR**, *i. e.* to *cleanse*; as Worms are *scoured* from their Filth and Dirt, with *Moss* or *Fennel*, &c.

A SCOURSE, is a *gravelly Bottom*, over which the Water is a little rough and shallow: Here *Gudgeon*, *Trout*, *Rock*, and *Dace* love to come at certain Seasons.

A SHANK, is that Part of a Hook to which the Line is whipt.

To **SHOOT**: Any Fish is said to *Shoot*, when, upon the Approach of the *Angler*, or of any Beast, to the Water-side, it swims away.

SIDED,

SIDED; as, The *Haddock* is *Sided*; *i. e.* It is *carved*, or *cut up*.

SOLAYED, a Technical Term for a *Bream* being cut up.

SPLATED: A *Pike* is said to be *Splated*, when it is carved up in the Dish.

SPLICE: To *Splice*, in *Angling*, signifies, to join the broken Parts of the Rod together, by cutting them into due Form, putting Wax between, and then twisting it over with a waxed Thread or Silk. A Line also is said to be *Spliced*, when, instead of Knots, it is fasten'd by placing the Ends of the Links together, and twisting it over with waxed Silk, &c.

STAND: A *Stand*, is a convenient Place by the Water-side; and it is either Natural, or Artificial: That which is Artificial, is made by cutting away the Boughs, Weeds, or long Grass which obstruct a Passage to the River.

STOUT, is an Epithet given to a large Fish, that struggles hard, and makes good Sport.

STRIKE, is a Term used by an *Angler*, when he gives a moderate Jerk at the Time that the Fish takes the Bait.

172 *The Gentleman Angler.*

From hence came the Phrase, He *Struck* a *Stout* Fish.

SWIM : A *Swim*, is that Length of Water in which the *Float* swims along the Stream as far as the Rod and Line will conveniently permit : And if it be clear, and free from Weeds, Grass, or Boughs, it is call'd a *good Swim*.

SNAPPING, is a Method used by *Anglers* in catching *Jacks* or *Pike* with a live Bait.

T.

THRASH, is the *Grass*, *Weeds*, *Hay*, or any other Filth or Dirt which swims down the River, and incommodes the *Angler*.

TRIM. *Vide* DRESS.

To TROUL, signifies the Manner of Catching *Jacks* or *Pike* with a dead Bait, in Opposition to *Snapping* : And this kind of Action is called *Trouling*.

To TROUL *at Home*, is a Phrase used by *Anglers*, and given as an Instruction to young Beginners. It advises them to *Troul* first close to the River-side, and then on the right and left Hands ; left,
if

The Gentleman Angler. 173

if a *Jack* or *Pike* should lie there, the sudden Approach of the *Angler* should cause him to *shoot* away.

TROUNCHENED, is a Term used by *Anglers*, and appropriated to *Eels*, when they are cut up.

TUSKED : This is a Term appropriated to a *Barbel*, which is said to be *Tusked*, when he is cut up in the Dish.

V.

To **VEER**, signifies, to let out your Line from your *Wince* or *Reel*, after you *strike* a large Fish ; lest, in checking him too suddenly, he breaks his Hold, or your Line.

W.

WARP : A Rod is said to be *warped*, when any Part of it bends, or is crooked, by the Heat of the Sun, or otherwise.

WEIGH : To *Weigh* a Fish, is to lift it out of the Water with a *Rod* and *Line* only, and not making Use of the *Landing-net*, or *Landing-book*. This is a very
I 3 impru-

174 *The Gentleman Angler.*

imprudent Way ; for if it be a *stout* Fish, it will flounce as soon as taken out of the Water, and, very probably, will break his *Hold*, or the *Line*.

To WHIP, is a Term given by *Anglers* to those who use the *Artificial Fly* ; and the Action, or Manner, is call'd *Whipping*.

A WINCE, is a Brass Instrument affixed to the Inside of the Rod, near the But-end, round which a Line of thirty or forty Yards is rolled, which is to be *veered off* when you have hooked a *stout* Fish, that you may *play* him with Safety ; and to be rolled up again, when you perceive him to return upon you, lest he intangles the Line, and thereby frustrates your Expectation.





Excellent R E C E I P T S for
Dressing F I S H after the best
and most fashionable Manner.

How to Dress a Brace of C A R P.



W H E N you kill your *Carp*, save the Blood ; and if they are large, take a Quart of Claret, half a dozen Cloves, one Nutmeg sliced, a small Quantity of Pepper and Salt, a Sprig of Thyme, one Onion, and two or three Pieces of fresh Lemon-peel : Put these Ingredients into a Stew-pan, and mix the Blood with them ; then put in your *Carp*, and cover your Stew-pan close, placing it over a gentle Coal-fire : Charcoal will be too fierce. Let them all stew 'till the Skins of the *Carp* begin to crack ; then take the Stew-pan

176 *The Gentleman Angler.*

off the Fire, and take out the Lemon-peel, Thyme, and Onion, and put your *Carp* into a Dish, and keep them warm. Then take half a Pint of Oysters and stew them, half a Pint of Shrimps, and half a Pint of Mushrooms, and put them to your other Sauce ; let them stew over the Fire, and stir them well together ; then put in your *Carp*, and when they and your Sauce are thoroughly hot, serve them up, garnishing the Dish with sliced Lemon.

How to Spitcock an EEL.

STRIP the Skin below the Vent ; then cut open the Belly, take out the Guts, wash the Inside, and wipe it dry with a Napkin. Then take grated Bread, Pepper, Salt, Thyme shredded, Lemon-peel cut small, and some Nutmeg grated ; mix them all together, and put them into the Belly of the *Eel*, and sew it up. Then pull the Skin over it, and quoil it up, fastening it with a Skewer ; broil it, and let the Sauce be Anchovies and Butter. This Manner of Dressing the *Eel* with the Skin upon it, keeps it moist :
But

But if you have a Mind to dress it without the Skin, then you must stuff some of the grated Bread, Pepper, Salt, Thyme, and Lemon-peel between every Round that is quoiled up.

How to Pot EELS.

LET your Seasoning be *Jamaica* Pepper, common Pepper pounded fine, and Salt ; strew some of this at the Bottom of an Earthen-pan ; then cut your *Eels*, and lay them over it. Strew there-upon some more of your Seasoning, and put in another Lay of *Eels* ; and do so in this Manner, until you have put in all your *Eels*, and then place a few *Bay-leaves* on the Top of them. Pour in as much common Vinegar as you think convenient, and a like Quantity of Water ; cover the Pan with brown Paper, and bake them. When you take them out of the Oven, pour off the Liquor ; then take as much clarified Butter as is proper to cover them handsomely, pour it upon them, and lay them by for Use.

How to Collar EELS.

TAKE two large *Silver Eels*, cut them down the Back, and take out the Bone, and the Guts; lay them in fair Water, then dry them, and take Parsley, Thyme, and Sweet Marjoram, chop them small, and season the *Eels* with Nutmeg, Ginger, and Salt, and a little Pepper; strew the Herbs over them, and so roll them up in Collars, like Brawn; then sew them in Cloths, and boil them in Water, Salt, and Vinegar, a Blade of Mace, and a Bundle of sweet Herbs. Keep the same Pickle, and souse them in it.

To Marionate EELS, or any other Fish, after the Italian Manner, to keep all the Year.

FIRST gut the Fish, and (if an *Eel*) take out a Lump of Blood which lies below the Navel about half an Inch; then flower them, and fry them alive in the best Oil, 'till you think they are enough, that is, 'till they are crisp. Take them

them out of the Pan, and lay them upon Sticks laid cross, to drain all the Oil from them ; and when they are cold put them up in Pots, and lay between each *Eel* a Leaf of Sage, and a little Rosemary, Ginger, Cloves, Mace, and Pepper pounded fine, and a little Salt. When the Pot is full, (if to eat presently) put in a quarter of a Pint of White-wine, and the rest of Vinegar : If to keep long, take all Vinegar, a little Garlick, Cloves, Mace, whole Pepper, Rosemary, and Sage, and Salt it well. Let it boil a quarter of an Hour ; then take it off boiling-hot, and pour it immediately upon the *Eels*, or other Fish. When you take them out, use a Skewer, and not your Fingers. If you would eat them quickly, turn out all the Liquor, and boil it often.

*To make a general Sauce for all Sorts
of FISH.*

To boil your Fish, take one Quart of White-wine, or a Pint of White-wine Vinegar, three or four Quarts of Water, a Bunch of sweet Herbs, and a good

180 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Handful of Salt : Let it boil a quarter of an Hour before the Fish be put in. And to make Sauce, take a few Cloves and Mace, Anchovies, and half a Pint of White-wine ; or you may, otherwise, melt your Butter with a little Water and the Juice of Lemon, with some Nutmeg, Horse-radish, and Lemon-peel, an Onion, and two Drops of Spirit of Salt, one Pint of stewed Oysters, and a little whole Pepper among the Butter. Let not the Onion nor Horse-radish be put into the Dish of Fish with the Sauce.

How to Roast a PIKE, with a Pudding in its Belly.

L B T the *Pike* soak some Hours in Water, then scrape off the Scales very clean, take out the Guts, and wash the Inside : Dry every Part with a clean Towel. To make the Pudding, take one Pound of Beef-suet shred very fine, and one Pound of grated Bread, if the *Pike* be large ; season it with Pepper, Salt, and grated Nutmeg : Then take fresh Lemon-peel cut very small, some Thyme,

The Gentleman Angler. 181

Thyme, and a Sprig of Winter-savoury, both pick'd, and cut small; three Anchovies shred fine, and the Yolks of three Eggs, and some Lemon-juice. Work all these Ingredients well together with your Hands, 'till they are incorporated into one Mass; which put into the Belly of the *Pike*, and sew it up. Cradle the *Pike*, and roast it before a good Fire; and when you perceive it to crack, you may then conclude that it is enough.

The SAUCE.

To make the *Sauce*; Take some rich Gravy, one Quart of Oysters stewed, one Pint of Shrimps, half a Pint of Mushrooms, and one Pound of good fresh Butter; melt the Butter, and put the other Ingredients into it; place the *Pike* in the Dish: Having taken out the Thread that sewed up the Belly, pour the *Sauce* upon it, and serve it up at Table.

How to Boil TENCH.

LET the Pickle, in which you boil the *Tench*, be made of Water and Salt, a Bunch of Thyme, and Onion, Lemon-peel,

182 *The Gentleman Angler.*

peel, a little Horfe-radish, and a quarter of a Pint of Vinegar. You need not take more Water than is sufficient to cover the *Tench*, which must be put in before the Water boils, to prevent them from cracking. When they are boiled; to make your Sauce, Take two Anchovies, and boil them in a little Water, 'till they are dissolved; then let it stand to settle, and drain it off, and add to it what Quantity of Butter you think fit, and half a Pint of stewed Oysters, and a quarter of a Pint of Shrimps: Serve it up: Garnish the Dish with Lemon and Mushrooms.

To Pickle SALMON to keep all the Year.

SCRAPE the *Salmon*, take out the Guts, wash it, and dry it; then divide it into as many Parts as you think proper, by cutting in Pieces, cross the Fish. This being done, take three Parts common Vinegar, and one of Water, sufficient to cover the *Salmon*; then put in a large Handful of Salt, and stir it about until it is dissolved; and to this add some whole
Pepper,

The Gentleman Angler. 183

Pepper, Mace, Cloves, and sliced Nutmeg, and boil all together until the *Salmon* be enough. Take it out of the Liquor, and let it cool ; and when it is cold, place it in a Barrel, and over every Lay of *Salmon* strew Mace, Cloves, Black-pepper, and Nutmeg pounded coarse ; and when your Cask or Barrel is filled, pour the Liquor upon it in which it was boiled ; and then take some Vinegar and boil it with a few Bay-leaves, and when it is cold, pour it upon your *Salmon*, and barrel it up for Use.

N. B. The *Salmon* will perish, if not kept covered with the Pickle ; and if done after this Manner, it will be fit for Use in five Days, or may be kept all the Year.

To Souse MAYCRIL.

LET your *Maycril* be thoroughly cleaned ; then take an equal Quantity of Vinegar and Water, and a Handful of Salt, and some whole Black-pepper. Boil the Liquor well, and put into the Liquor, Baum, Spear-mint, and Fennel,

184 *The Gentleman Angler.*

nel, of each a like Quantity, and also into the Bellies of the *Maycryn*; boil them well over a slow Fire, and when they are cold they are fit for Use. Fresh Vinegar, and some of the Herbs chopt small, is the Sauce which is used to them.

To Pickle TROUT.

TAKE half Water and half Vinegar, a Handful of Salt, Black-pepper whole, Cloves, and Mace; put in the *Trout*, and boil them all together over a gentle Fire: Then take them off, and let them stand to cool; and when they are cold you may take them out, they being then fit for Use.

To Dress a Dish of FISH in general.

LET the Fish that is to be boiled have the following Liquor; Water, Salt, half a Pint of Vinegar, a Sprig of Thyme, a small Onion, and some Lemon-peel; let this Liquor be very well boiled, and then put in your Fish: When you find they are enough, take them up, and drain
them

The Gentleman Angler. 185

them well, laying them over a Stew-hole, to keep them warm. Then, for your other Fish, strew some Crumbs of Bread over them, grated very fine, and fry them in Oil ; then drain them well, and keep them warm.

The S A U C E.

TAKE half a Pint of Water, three Anchovies, if your Dish of Fish be large, a Sprig of Thyme. a little Lemon-peel, and boil them very well : Take out the Thyme and the Lemon-peel, and add to the other Liquor a quarter of a Pint of Claret, and scrape in a small Nutmeg, with a little Black-pepper pounded, sufficient to relish it ; add one Pint of Oysters stewed, half a Pint of Shrimps, the Juice of one Lemon, and what Quantity of Butter you think fit ; stir them all well together over the Fire, and serve up the Fish. Garnish the Dish with Lemon, pickled Cabbage, Horse-radish, and Mushrooms.

How

How to Dress DACE the best Way.

IF the *Dace* be new, scrape them, gut them, and wash them clean ; then scotch them as you do a fresh *Herring*, and broil them over a slow Fire. The Sauce may be plain Butter, or Anchovies and Butter together, as you like best : And *Dace* dressed after this Manner are much preferable to *Herrings*.

To Dress PERCH after the Dutch Manner, called Water-Zouch.

SCRAPE the *Perch* very clean, take out their Guts, and wash them, then boil them in the following Liquor : Take three Parts of Water, and one of Vinegar, put therein some Salt, and dissolve it, some whole Pepper, some Parsley and Thyme well shredded ; boil the *Perch* herein, and serve them up in their own Liquor. *Note*, They who love *Water-Zouch*, eat Bread and Butter with the *Perch*.

As *Mushrooms* are frequently used in most Sauces, it may not be improper to give Directions for Pickling them.

To Pickle MUSHROOMS.

TAKE the *Mushrooms* and peel them, cut the Rind off behind, and fling them into clean Water ; wash them in two or three Waters, and then boil them in a little Water, with a good Quantity of Salt, a Bundle of Sweet-herbs, a little Rosemary, and all Manner of Spice. When they are well boiled, let them stand in the Liquor twenty-four Hours, and then pour the Liquor from them in a hot Cloth, to smother them a Day and a Night ; and put in your Pickle, which you must make of White-wine and Elder Vinegar, all manner of Spice, Ginger, Horse-radish, and Juice of Lemons. Put them into Pots, and lay an oiled Paper over them, and so keep them for Use. Let them be stopt close.



How to Improve Poor and Barren **G R O U N D.**



LET the *Ground* be ever so *poor* and *barren*, yet I think it is demonstrable, that an Advantage may be made of it ; and more-especially if it be fortunately situated near a River, so that Water may be conveyed from thence to it.

Let us then suppose this Ground, *poor* and *barren* as it is, to be in its Nature Clay, or Mud, or Gravel, or a Sand and Gravel.

If a *Clay*, or *Mud*. If it be a *Clay*, then dig a Pond in the Shape of the Figure 7. Let the Length be sixty Yards, and the Upper-part twenty, and in Breadth let it be ten Yards wide. A Pond of these Dimensions will be capable of holding and maintaining twenty Dozen Brace of Breeding *Carp* ; and
when

The Gentleman Angler. 189

when it comes to be over-stock'd, it must be drained, and the young *Carp* taken out and put into a Horse-pond, and afterwards removed into another Pond. But the better to secure the *Carp* from *Poachers*, and Thieves, who, with their Casting-nets, rob Ponds in the Night-time, I would advise to have the Pond dug after the following Manner, and such Methods used as I shall here lay down :

Let the Ends and Sides of the Pond be dug shelving, and the Declivity to be a Yard and a half ; and round about, as close as conveniently may be, let it be railed. From the Bottom of the Declivity, throughout the whole Pond, I would advise that the Depth should be six Foot, except in the very Middle of the Pond, where, in different Places, large Holes should be dug, at least eight Foot deep ; and herein let the Stumps or Trunks of Trees (stuck with Tenter-hooks or old Nails) and as full of Branches as possible be cast in : This will be of double Advantage ; for it will not only be a Means to secure your Fish from Thieves, but it will likewise preserve them

them from the Inclemency of the *Winter*. Stakes also may be placed under Water, stuck with Tenter-hooks and old Nails.

It would be of great Benefit to the Fish, if they are fed twice or thrice a Week with Wheat or Barley sodden, or with stale Bread soaked in Water, and worked up with Bran, and so made into Balls, placing small Pebble-stones in the Middle, that they may sink to the Bottom ; or, throw in Garden-worms.

I know there are many who take great Delight in feeding Fish in their Ponds ; but being ignorant of the Manner or Place of Feeding, they generally feed them for those who make Spoil of them in the Night-time.

Fish are apt to frequent the Places where they oftenest find Food ; and therefore it is a great Error to feed them near the Shore ; for their Food should be cast into the deepest and remotest Places. This Method of Feeding Fish near the Sides of the Pond, is the same which is practised by Night-robbers, who drawing the Fish thither, have the better Opportunity of covering them with their Nets.

I must

I must confess, I know not any better Way to prevent Ponds from being robbed, than by having them made after the same Manner, and following the same Directions as to Staking, &c. which I have here laid down.

Though *Carp* will thrive in close Ponds, yet I would rather advise to have a running Water conveyed into Ponds ; and one *Carp* fed in one of these last-mentioned Places, is worth two of the other. The former taste of the Clay ; but if the Ground be a Clay and Gravel, and running Water be constantly conveyed into it, the *Carp* that are here taken, will eat very near as sweet, and bring as good a Price as *River Carp*.

It may be objected, That it will cost a Sum of Money to make such a Pond, and to store it well. I agree that it will : And what then ? Will not the Produce answer the Expence ? or rather, Will it not answer seven-fold ? Suppose that one hundred Pounds be laid out in such a Pond as I have described, and that no Return of Principal or Interest should be made for three Years ; yet I hope, that if it produces twenty Pounds a Year for every

192 *The Gentleman Angler.*

every succeeding Year, which, at a modest Computation, it the least that may be ; I hope it will be a sufficient Recompence for the Money expended.

But let us suppose the Price too great, and that a Pond may be made at a cheaper Rate, and afford Plenty of Fish. Why then, if the Ground be Mud, I know not to what Use you can convert it, except it be to a Pond for *Eels* ; and this will, in some measure, answer your Expectation. But how will you secure the *Eels* against those who use Spears ? The only Way I can propose, is, to bury small Hurdles in several Parts of the Pond, wide enough for the *Eels* to work themselves through, which Hurdles are to be fasten'd either with Wedges, or large Stones ; and then, if your Pond is not deep, the Spear-men will go in, sooner than lose their Spears.

Let us now suppose the Ground to be a fine Gravel, and Water be convey'd to run thro' it without any Intermission ; What Sort of Pond must be made here ? I answer, Supposing this to be the Case, then I think nothing can be so proper as a *Trout Pond*, which may be made in any Shape

The Gentleman Angler. 193

Shape or Form. But then several Things must be observed in this Pond, which are not observed in any other: As for Instance; Though it ought to be staked, and the Trunks of Trees cast into it, for the same Reasons as before given; yet other Things peculiar to a *Trout Pond* are wanting.

For the Water convey'd into the Pond, whether through a Pipe, or by a small Channel, must fall from such an Height, that the *Trouts*, when they leap, cannot reach: Nor is this all; for there must be a Sluice or Waste-gate at the End of the Pond, to let out the Water as fast as it runs into the Pond, otherwise it would soon be overflow'd, and all the *Trout* make their Escape: This Sluice may be punched with several small Holes, large enough to let out a sufficient Quantity of Water constantly, and yet not so large as to suffer any *Trout* to get out. Hay-seed also ought to be sown at the Edges of the Pond, all round, which will protect the *Trout*, when it shoots out, from the Heat of the Sun.

A *Trout Pond* ought to be well fed; and there is scarce any thing, as Bread,

K

Worms,

Worms, Snails, Maggots, &c. but what they will eat.

I would not be here thought to have given the regular Description of a *Trout Pond*, which is not my Business at present ; for all my Aim is, to shew, that an Improvement may be made of poor Ground, by making Fish-ponds ; the Manner of which is submitted to every Man's Choice and Inclination.

Upon second Thoughts, and forasmuch as most Country Gentlemen are willing to improve their barren Ground, and consequently be desirous to know how a *Trout Pond* ought to be made ; I will give them such Instructions, which, if rightly pursued, will answer their End to all Intents and Purposes : This I shall do, not in a speculative Manner, as my bare Opinion only, or that, in all Probability, it may take ; but Experience has taught me, that it will answer in every respect.

I have already previously observed, that the Soil must be Gravel, or else Gravel and Sand ; but all Gravel is by much the best. It must also be in such a Place where fresh Water may naturally
run

run into it constantly, or be brought thither through Pipes, or by a Canal.

Having pitch'd upon a convenient Spot of Ground, and supposing the Pond is to be a *Square*, or an *Oblong*, dig a Trench eight or ten Foot deep, and at least three Foot from the Middle Part of the Pond ; which Trench will serve as a Moat to the other Part ; and let the Surface of it be four Foot deeper than the Margin, or each Side or Ends of the Pond. The Trench or Moat must be dug perpendicular ; and in the Bottom lay the Stumps of Trees, at convenient Distances : But in the Middle Part of the Pond set such Trees as will thrive best in the Water ; and dig several Holes in it, if the Quantity of Ground will allow it ; and round the Sides of the Pond, and at the Ends, if it be an *Oblong*, sow Hay-feed. By these Means the *Trouts* will find Shelter from the scorching Sun-beams in the Summer, and Places of Retreat to keep them warm from the Inclemency of a hard Winter : They will likewise be secure from the Nets of *Poachers*, and others who rob Fish-ponds by Night, and also from the many Artifices used by those

K 2

who

196 *The Gentleman Angler.*

who make Spoil of the Labour and Indudry of honest Men.

Fix a Wheel, made in the Form of a Wheel of a Water-mill, at that Part of the Pond where you design the Stream shall run into the Pond ; and let it be so contrived, that this small Wheel shall be at least three Foot in Height from the Surface of the Water in the Pond ; and as it must be constantly going, order it so that the Stream shall turn it towards the Pond. For as *Trouts* delight in the newest and freshest Water, so they will naturally get as near the Wheel as they possibly can ; and the largest will rise or leap up, to get into the little Canal. So that if the Wheel should turn towards the Stream, the Lavers may throw them into it, or upon the Ground ; and if the latter happens, they must inevitably perish : But if the other Way, which I have here laid down, be observed, then the Wheel will throw them back again into the Pond.

In one of the Angles, or in any other Part of that Side or End which is opposite to the Wheel, a Sluice must be made, in which many Holes must be bored,

bored, to let the Water run constantly out, after you have filled the Pond as full as you think proper ; and if you have another Sluice at a convenient Distance from the other, it will be so much the better ; and, upon second Thoughts, you will find it absolutely necessary. For, though the Pond be all Gravel, yet, when the Land-waters come down, after hard Rains, they will leave much Filth, Mud, and Dirt behind them ; so that you will be obliged to cleanse your Pond once in two Years at least : And while that is doing, you must stop the Stream above ; and having drawn all the Water out of your Pond, reserve as much as possible between the two Sluices, and put your *Trouts* in there. Be sure to employ Hands enough in taking the Mud or Filth out of the Pond, that you may fill it again with Water, and put your *Trouts* in it. It would not be improper if the Ground between the two Sluices were paled in, or hedged with white or black Thorn-trees : And if you plant Willows on each Side or Ends of the Pond, and not let them grow above three Foot high, they will not only be an

198 *The Gentleman Angler.*

Ornament to the Place, but will shelter the Fish.

I have already made mention of some *Baits*, which are to be cast into the Pond to feed the *Trouts*: And when I named *Worms*, I would not be understood as if I intend all Sorts of Worms; for Garden-worms, Marsh, and Red-worms are the properest. There is a Worm with a blue Head, which *Trouts* will not touch, though they are ever so hungry; and should large Quantities of these be thrown in, and the Pond be small, they would turn to Corruption, and either make the Fish sick, or totally destroy them. *Trouts* will thrive exceedingly, if young *Bleak*, *Minnows*, small *Dace*, and *Gudgeon* be put into the Pond; for they are Fish of Prey, and delight to feed upon such small Fry.

Thus I have shewn how you may be successful in a *Trout Pond*; and I have not advanced any thing, but what I can vouch to be true. In the same Manner you may make a Pond for *Tench*, *Perch*, *Carp*, and *Flounders*: But then, as *Carp* are great Breeders, you must take Care to prepare a *Store Pond*, and put the
young

young *Carp* into it; otherwise your *Breeding Pond* will be over-stock'd, which will prevent the Growth of your *Carp*. And as to the *Pond* for *Flounders*, the Soil ought to be Sandy with a little Gravel, and the Sides must be dug shelving.

Now let us suppose that the Ground be a Sand and Gravel; then I would advise a Pond to be made, either with or without running Water, (though I must confess I shall always prefer the former) and to be stored with *Flounders*. I will not say that these Sorts of *Ponds* are common; but I will maintain they are very profitable; neither will I undertake to draw a Draught, or Model, after which they are to be made: But I will observe one Thing, that in every Pond there ought to be Sand-banks made; in which Places *Flounders* take great Delight, at proper Times, and without which they will not thrive.

To dig a Pond for this Sort of Fish, and to store it well, will cost but little Money; and I know, by Experience, that it will produce at least 40 per Cent.

My Design, in these few Pages, is only to give some Hints towards what

may be done to the Benefit, and Satisfaction of those who make the Experiment: And though I have mention'd some particular Fish to be put into Ponds, yet I would not be thought to exclude all others; for a Man is at Liberty to Store his Ponds with what he pleases; though I am of Opinion, that he will not find any others to answer his Expectation, except *Perch* and *Tench*; the former thrive best in running Water, and the latter in Ponds whose Waters are stagnated.





T H E I N D E X.

I	I	N T R O D U C T I O N, Page 1
		<i>Advice necessary to every Angler</i> 1, 2
		<i>Angle Rods, Shoots, or Top-joints</i> 4, 5
		<i>Angler's Song</i> 123
		<i>Angling, Instructions in general</i> 2, 3
		<i>Apparatus, or Necessaries with which Anglers ought to be furnished</i> 2, 3
		<i>Artificial Flies, which are the best</i> 18
		<i>————— how to make them</i> 19
		<i>Artificial Minnow, how to make one</i> 36
		<i>Bait, an universal and infallible one</i> 30
		<i>Cod-Bait, to keep and preserve alive</i> 31
		<i>Baits,</i>

The I N D E X.

Baits, <i>how to preserve them</i>	26
Floats, <i>how to make them</i>	14
—— <i>a Cement for them</i>	15
—— <i>another Cement</i>	16
Hair and Indian Grass, <i>how to chuse them</i>	6
Hair, <i>how to dye it Green</i>	8
————— <i>Yellow</i>	9
————— <i>Russet</i>	10
————— <i>Brown</i>	ibid.
————— <i>Tawney</i>	ibid.
Hair Lines, <i>how to make them</i>	7
Hooks, <i>how to make them</i>	11
—— <i>how to whip them</i>	12
—— <i>how to be baited with a live Minnow</i>	37
—— <i>with a Gentle</i>	35
—— <i>with a Lob-worm</i>	38
Instructions <i>general for Angling</i> , 23 & seq;	
Paste, <i>an excellent Sort for a Chub</i>	33
<i>Another Paste</i>	ibid.
<i>How to make Paste for Angling</i>	32
Quills, <i>to dye Red</i>	17
<i>A Treatise concerning Thames Fishing, and of the Nature of such Rivers as run into it, or are near unto it</i>	107.

Of



The I N D E X.

Of F I S H.

B Arbel	Page 76
Bleak	101
Bream	82
Bull-head	105
Carp, <i>how to angle in Rivers</i>	65
————— <i>in Ponds</i>	68
Chub, or Chevin	78
Dace	94
Eel	102
Eel-pout	103
Flounders	88
Gudgeon	100
Greyling	87
Loach	106
Luce. <i>See Pike.</i>	
Minnow	104
Miller's-thumb. <i>Vide Bull-head.</i>	
Mullets	91
Perch	74
Pike, <i>how to Trowl for them</i>	55
————— <i>to Snap</i>	62
Pink. <i>Vide Minnow.</i>	
Pope	104
Roch	92
Rud	94
	Ruit.

The INDEX.

Rutt. <i>Vide</i> Pope.	
Salmon	Page 41
Salmon-Fry	47
Salmon-Peale	48
Smelts	92
Tench, <i>how to angle in Ponds</i>	85
————— <i>in Rivers</i>	86
Trout	49
Umber. <i>See</i> Greyling.	
Laws of Angling	129
Licence and Deputation for Angling	135
A P P E N D I X	
Anglers <i>Phrases</i> , an Explanation of <i>them</i>	139 159
Carp, <i>how to dress them</i>	175
Dace, <i>how dress'd the best Way</i>	186
Eel, <i>how to collar them</i>	178
———— <i>to keep them all the Year, after the Italian Manner</i>	ibid. 177
———— <i>to Pot them</i>	177
———— <i>to spitcock them</i>	176
Fish, <i>how to dress a Dish in general</i>	184
Flounders, of the Salt-water	148
Haddock	154
Land, poor and barren, <i>how to be im- proved by Fish Ponds</i>	188 156
Maycril	156
	Maycril,

The INDEX.

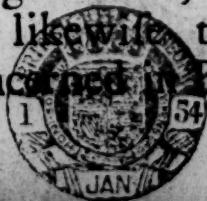
Maycril, <i>how to fouse them</i>	Page 183
Mushrooms, <i>how to pickle them</i>	187
Perch, <i>how to dress them</i>	186
Pike, <i>how to roast it with a Pudding in the Belly</i>	180
Rock Fishing	141
Rock Whiting	150
Salmon, <i>how to pickle, to keep all the Year</i>	182
Sauce, <i>a general one for Fish</i>	179, 180
Sauce <i>for a Pike</i>	181
Sea Bream	147
Sea Fishing	151
Tench, <i>how to boil them</i>	ibid.
Trout, <i>how to pickle them</i>	184
Water-Zouch. <i>Vide Perch to dress.</i>	
Whiting	151
Whiting Pollock	149

F I N I S.



BOOKS *Printed for* A. Betteſworth
and C. Hitch, *at the* Red Lyon
in Pater-Noſter-Row.

THE *Builder's Dictionary*; or,
Gentleman and Architect's Com-
panion: Explaining not only the
Terms of Art in all the ſeveral Parts of
Architecture, but alſo containing the
Theory and Practice of the various
Branches thereof, requiſite to be known
by *Masons, Carpenters, Joiners, Brick-*
layers, Plaiſterers, Painters, Glaziers,
Smiths, Turners, Carvers, Statuaries,
Plumbers, &c. Alſo neceſſary Problems
in Arithmetic, Geometry, Mechanics,
Perspective, Hydraulics, and other Ma-
thematical Sciences. Together with the
Quantities, Proportions, and Prices of
all Kinds of Materials uſed in Building;
with Directions for chuſing, preparing,
and uſing them: The ſeveral Propor-
tions of the Five Orders of Archi-
tecture, and all their Members, accord-
ing to *Vitruvius, Palladio, Scamozzi,*
Vignola, M. Le Clerc, &c. Being a
Work of great Uſe, not only to Artifi-
cers, but likewiſe to Gentlemen, and
others, concerned in Building, &c. Faith-
fully



Books Printed for Bettefworth and Hitch.

fully digested from the most approved Writers on these Subjects. With Rules for the Valuation of Houses, and the Expence calculated for erecting any Fabric, Great or Small. 2 Vol. 8vo. with Cuts. *We have perused these two Volumes of The Builder's Dictionary, and do think they contain a great deal of useful Knowledge in the Building Business.* Nicholas Hawksmoor, John James, James Gibbs. price 12 s.

2. *Campanologia* Improv'd: Or, The Art of Ringing made easy, by plain and methodical Rules and Directions, whereby the ingenious Practitioner may, with a little Practice and Care, attain to the Knowledge of Ringing all manner of Double, Treble, and Quadruple Changes, with Variety of new Peals upon 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 Bells. As also the Method of calling Bobs for any Peal of Triples from 168 to 2520 (being the half Peal). Also for any Peal of Quadruples or Cat-tors from 324 to 840. The 3d Edition, corrected. price 1 s. 6 d.

3. The Compleat City and Country Cook; or, Accomplish'd Housewife: Containing several Hundred of the most approv'd

BOOKS *Printed for* A. Betteſworth
and C. Hitch, *at the* Red Lyon
in Pater-Noſter-Row.

THE *Builder's Dictionary*; or,
Gentleman and Architect's Com-
panion: Explaining not only the
Terms of Art in all the ſeveral Parts of
Architecture, but alſo containing the
Theory and Practice of the various
Branches thereof, requiſite to be known
by *Masons, Carpenters, Joiners, Brick-*
layers, Plaiſterers, Painters, Glaziers,
Smiths, Turners, Carvers, Statuaries,
Plumbers, &c. Alſo neceſſary Problems
in Arithmetic, Geometry, Mechanics,
Perſpective, Hydraulics, and other Ma-
thematical Sciences. Together with the
Quantities, Proportions, and Prices of
all Kinds of Materials uſed in Building;
with Directions for chuſing, preparing,
and uſing them: The ſeveral Propor-
tions of the Five Orders of Archi-
tecture, and all their Members, accord-
ing to *Vitruvius, Palladio, Scamozzi,*
Vignola, M. Le Clerc, &c. Being a
Work of great Uſe, not only to Artifi-
cers, but likewiſe to Gentlemen, and
others, concerned in Building, &c. Faith-
fully



Books Printed for Bettefworth and Hitch.

fully digested from the most approved Writers on these Subjects. With Rules for the Valuation of Houses, and the Expence calculated for erecting any Fabric, Great or Small. 2 Vol. 8vo. with Cuts. *We have perused these two Volumes of The Builder's Dictionary, and do think they contain a great deal of useful Knowledge in the Building Business.* Nicholas Hawksmoor, John James, James Gibbs. price 12 s.

2. *Campanologia* Improv'd: Or, The Art of Ringing made easy, by plain and methodical Rules and Directions, whereby the ingenious Practitioner may, with a little Practice and Care, attain to the Knowledge of Ringing all manner of Double, Treble, and Quadruple Changes, with Variety of new Peals upon 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 Bells. As also the Method of calling Bobs for any Peal of Triples from 168 to 2520 (being the half Peal). Also for any Peal of Quadruples or Cantors from 324 to 840. The 3d Edition, corrected. price 1 s. 6 d.

3. The Compleat City and Country Cook; or, Accomplish'd Housewife: Containing several Hundred of the most approv'd

Books Printed for Bettelworth and Hitch.

approved Receipts in Cookery, Pastry, Confectionary, Pickles, Cordials, Preserving, Cosmetics, Syrups, Jellies, *English* Wines, &c. Illustrated with Forty-nine Copper Plates, directing the regular placing the various Dishes on the Table, from one, to four or five Courses. Also Bills of Fare, according to the several Seasons for every Month of Year. Likewise the Horse-shoe Table for Ladies, at the late Instalment at *Windfor*; the Lord-Mayor's Table; and other Hall Dinners in the City of *London*; with a Fish Table, &c. By *Charles Carter*, lately Cook to his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, the Earl of *Pontefract*, the Lord *Cornwallis*, &c. To which is added, by way of Appendix, near two hundred of the most approved Receipts in Physic and Surgery, for the Cure of the most common Diseases incident to Families. The Collection of a noble Lady deceased. A Work designed for the Good, and absolutely Necessary for all Families. price 4 s. 6 d.

4. *Love of Fame*, The Universal Passion: In seven Satires. By the Reverend Dr. *Young*. 8vo. price 3 s. 6 d.

h.

y,

e-

r-

7-

4-

e

s.

l

r.

.

;

l

a

;

f

d

y

f

c

t

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.